

Journalists angered by 'secret' talks on London merger

Journalists at the "Evening News", London, yesterday demanded details of the proposed merger with the "Evening Standard" and hinted industrial action. Their union representatives will today urge the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection to refer the

deal to the Monopolies Commission. An attempt to remove Mr Jocelyn Stevens, the chief executive, from the board of Beaverbrook Newspapers was foiled by Sir Max Aitken, the chairman, it has been disclosed.

MPs in deputation to minister

Peter Godfrey

Journalists at the "Evening News", London, have demanded to be fully informed by noon of developments in the proposed merger of the "Evening Standard" and the "Evening News".

In a strongly worded letter to Vere Harcourt, chairman of Associated Newspapers, which owns the "Daily Mail" and "Evening News", the newspaper's National Union of Journalists (NUJ) demanded that the merger be referred to the Monopolies Commission.

The union deplored the secrecy of the talks between the two companies, which it maintained, had caused unnecessary suffering. "Neither side has saved its employees with the process and frankness that is due," it said.

An attempt to placate the journalists was made yesterday by Mr Louis Kirby, editor of the "Evening News". He wrote in a letter to them that the merger was in progress.

He assured them that no decision on staffing had been made, and denied rumours that journalists from the "Standard" would be dismissed.

While acknowledging the journalists' concern, Mr Kirby said there was no question of the "Standard" being wound up to merge with the "News". The new London paper, he said, would be a "Daily Mail".

Like his counterpart at the "Standard", Mr Simon Jenkins, a member of the "News" staff, was understood to make every effort to safeguard the interests of his staff.

Mr Kirby's letter was welcomed by the journalists, but some to imply that heavy losses of jobs would be proposed. Mr Michael Rowland, father (chairman) of the NUJ chapel, said that the editor's letter was his first official communication of a staff confirming the merger.

talks, although the company had already been fully informed by the Government. "It appears that the management of either Beaverbrook or Associated put in a plea some time ago to the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection for evasion of the Monopolies Commission," Mr Rowland said. "We insist that there is no sudden state of emergency, and therefore such a claim is spurious."

NUJ officials representing the "News" and "Standard", and their respective stablemates, the "Daily Mail" and "Daily Express", are to meet Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, this afternoon to seek clarification of whether a merger would be referred to the Monopolies Commission.

The union representatives will urge a referral of the case. A deputation of Labour MPs led by Mr Max Madden, chairman of the parliamentary party's employment group, will also be at the meeting.

Mr Madden said last night: "We shall stress the consequences that would flow from a single evening newspaper covering the whole of Greater London, which would have a monopoly of news. They would ask whether the matter should be considered by the Monopolies Commission."

Journalists at both evening papers are awaiting the outcome of today's events before planning further action. They indicated yesterday that industrial action was possible if their demands were not met.

In the Commons yesterday Mr Robert MacCrindle, Conservative MP for Brentwood and Ongar, tabled a motion regarding the proposed merger of the "Evening Standard" and the "Evening News".

£5m deal: In outline, the deal would give Beaverbrook about £5m in cash immediately and a three-year option for Associated to acquire half the Fleet Street site occupied by Beaverbrook and its production plant (Sheila Black writes). Whether Associated take up the option depends on the degree of co-operation achieved with unions to bring about an economical

production and manning code for all the papers, daily, Sunday and evening, in both groups. Mr Harcourt said: "Such agreements would have to be completely realistic. It is not automatic that even one London evening newspaper can be profitable, and the same is true of the two dailies, although both could benefit from a dramatic cut in costs."

Claim denied: Mr Harcourt last night rejected a statement in the "Times" yesterday by Mr Jenkins that the disappearance of the "Evening Standard" would leave a yawning gap in the cultural and political life of London.

Mr Harcourt said: "It is completely at variance with the facts for Mr Jenkins to imply that the 'Evening Standard' has campaigned for all that could be best for London and Londoners and the 'Evening News' has not. Efforts for the public good are a matter of record."

"To list every successful activity of the 'Evening News' would be a Herculean task, but its recent efforts range from active support of the arts through aggressive campaigning for social justice to support for commuters. I can safely say that no major activity escapes the attention of the 'Evening News' team."

The newspaper had not shirked from controversial issues, he said. Commenting on the future of the "Evening News", Mr Harcourt said: "It is totally unrealistic for anyone to perceive any new London evening paper that would be born as a result of a marriage between the 'Standard' and the 'News' as looking especially like either of its parents."

"A new paper would be a new product with a new life. In short, an entirely new creation inspired by the example of the 'Daily Mail' incorporating the best ingredients of today's 'Evening Standard' and those of today's 'Evening News'."

"In any new newspaper we shall be looking for excellence wherever it is to be found. We will not be confined by the elitist view that it exists only in the broader part of the country."

High winds and rough seas delay attempts to bring North Sea blow-out under control Repair team lands on stricken Ekofisk oil platform

From Craig Seton

Stranger, April 25
High winds and rough seas were tonight threatening to disrupt and delay the operation to bring under control the blow-out of oil and gas at the Bravo platform in the Norwegian Ekofisk field.

Throughout today the weather has deteriorated and although a repair team got on to the platform from the anchored pipe-laying vessel Chocow, little preparatory work was completed for the final effort to cap the flow of oil, which Norwegian authorities now hope can start tomorrow.

About 12,000 tons of crude residual oil have poured into the sea since the blow-out on Friday 200 miles from the British coast. The growing slick is now estimated to be nearly 20 miles long by six miles wide and is moving slowly northwards, but Norway's anti-pollution agency said that there was no immediate danger of pollution to the British, Norwegian or Danish coasts.

The Norwegian authorities and Phillips Petroleum Company, which operates the Ekofisk oil complex for the Phillips-Norway group, now have the Bravo platform surrounded by a flotilla of ships awaiting the chance to plug the leak and clear the water of oil.

Six ships carrying booms to surround the slick and skimming vessels to take the oil from the surface of the sea were involved in the operation by tonight, as well as nine ships carrying chemical dispersants.

But while the booms and skimmers are unlikely to be of any use while the sea is rough, Phillips and the Norwegian Government have indicated that they are reluctant to use chemical dispersants to break up and sink the oil because of the danger to fish stocks. The Danish Government has already warned them not to use chemicals.

The Norwegian Government announced that an independent committee of inquiry would be established shortly to investigate the blow-out at Bravo and the pollution which has resulted. It is expected that the country's oil safety measures will be re-examined in the light of this accident, which is Norway's worst oil disaster.

Norway's Labour Government is coming under increasing pressure from some of the minor opposition parties over the incident, which is likely to throw doubt on the country's plans to survey and eventually drill for oil above the 62°N parallel.

This afternoon it was reported that two more ships were on their way from Göteborg, Sweden, and another from Denmark to help in the operation. Phillips has other vessels standing by with the team of oil-fighters led by Mr Paul "Red" Adair.

As soon as the full operation begins on the Bravo platform, the oil men will attempt to cap the 4½in diameter pipe from which oil is being forced up

wards by pressure at nearly 5,000lb per square inch from below the seabed. This afternoon in a ship-to-shore radio link with the Norwegian fire-fighting vessel Seaway Falcon, Mr Oyvind Hollekim, the captain, told me that the ship was still standing a few yards off Bravo, pouring thousands of gallons of water to cool the escaping oil.

He said that the lack of wind early this morning had allowed gas to build up around the platform, and on had accumulated on the helicopter landing pad, making it impossible for a helicopter to put down a repair team.

"It was impossible to use a helicopter then and it is impossible now. The wind is getting up and is now at 30 knots and the weather is getting worse."

The captain added that the British fire-fighting vessel Forties Kiwi was standing by the platform, but was not yet being used.

Mr Hans Christian Bugge, of the Norwegian pollution control agency, said that booms and skimmers would soon be at the platform with capacity for clearing oil from the sea's surface at the rate of 8,000 tons a day. But he would not be drawn on how quickly they could be used if the weather continued to worsen.

Mr Gordon Goering, director of Phillips's Norwegian operation, confirmed that the Ekofisk complex had been shut while the company tackled the Bravo crisis. There was little danger of fire and the 350 Phillips offshore employees were in no danger.

"We believe everything is going according to plan," he said. "If everything went smoothly at the time of the final cap it could be completed within a few hours, but this would depend on the weather."

In the meantime, the drilling vessel Orion, which will arrive in the Ekofisk field by tomorrow, will prepare for the possibility of drilling a second relief well to reduce the flow.

Hopes for tomorrow, page 6

Treasury's spending chief moves to Trade

By Peter Hennessy

Mr Leon Plazky, the Second Permanent Secretary at the Treasury, is responsible for controlling public expenditure, is to move to the Department of Trade as permanent secretary to succeed Sir Peter Thornhill, who is retiring in August.

Two other second permanent secretaries have announced their departure from the Treasury in the past two months. Mr Alan Lord left for Dundee, and Sir Derek Mitchell is to join Guinness Mahon next month.

When Sir Bryan Hopkin retired from the post of chief economic adviser in the autumn, only the permanent secretary, Sir Douglas Wess, will remain from the top five who began 1977.

Mr Plazky is one of the Treasury's most distinctive postwar characters. He is an ebullient Lancastrian, and a policy-maker of high distinction, who expresses his views in colourful and direct language. His colleagues say: "Leo has a drop of blood in his veins; it's all adrenalin."

After a lifetime in the Treasury's spending divisions he has turned the control of public expenditure into something of a crusade. Public confidence in the Treasury's ability to govern as well as the reputation of the Treasury, was at stake.

Because of the system of five-yearly public spending programmes, as recommended by the Plowden report of 1961, Mr Plazky has been over-enthusiastic in his efforts to support the Treasury, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, he imposed cash limits on two thirds of government spending, setting limits that could be breached only by a decision of the Cabinet.

Leo has been magnificent, standing there and saying: 'They shall not pass'—an admiring colleague commented. So effective is the new arrangement.

Continued on page 2, col 3



If you have ears... Mr Callaghan and Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, wear special muffs as protection against jet noise at RAF Bruggen, in Germany. Mr Callaghan had been planning to visit British forces in Germany for some time and had the idea of asking Herr Schmidt to join him as a political gesture to emphasize Britain's commitment to NATO (Dan van der Writ writes).

The two men put on camouflage jackets to watch a takeoff of 30 Jaguar fighters, a missile exercise and demonstrations of other activities at the airfield.

Contrary to rumours, subject that did not occur during the fleeting conversations between inspections was the issue of West German offset payments to Britain to help meet the foreign exchange costs involved in maintaining forces in Germany. The West Germans, who regard this arrangement as a last vestige of military occupation, are opposed to renewing the agreement which expired last year. They say the amount involved is insignificant compared with the financial aid Bonn has given London in many other ways. The offset issue is therefore likely to remain in limbo for a long time.

Court ruling on Slater appeal likely today

By Clive Borrell

An attempt began in the High Court yesterday to reverse a decision of Mr Kenneth Barracough, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, who in January ruled that Mr James Slater, the financier, should not be extradited to Singapore to face criminal charges.

Mr Ronald Waterhouse, QC, for the Republic of Singapore, said Mr Barracough was in a state of serious confusion over whether he should apply Singapore or English law when reaching his decision.

The reasoning of the magistrate was wrong in law, he asked himself the wrong questions and declared himself wrongly on the record."

Mr Waterhouse told Lord Justice Shaw, sitting with Mr Justice Nield and Mr Justice Stocker.

Mr Waterhouse was applying for leave to "move for orders of certiorari and mandamus". Mr Waterhouse said there was no question of placing Mr Slater, aged 47, in double jeopardy, as there were at least seven other legal resorts to which he could turn, with finally an appeal to the Privy Council.

On January 25 last, Mr Barracough refused to order the extradition of Mr Slater on six charges alleging that he conspired to commit a criminal breach of trust and to cheat shareholders of Haw Par Bros International of Singapore. There were no prima facie cases against him, Mr Barracough ruled.

Law Report, page 11

Zaire forces capture key town in Shaba

Kolwezi, Zaire, April 25.—Zaire forces, backed by Moroccan troops, captured the town of Muthusha today, the first victory of an 11-day counter-offensive against rebels in the southern province of Shaba, a military spokesman said.

Muthusha, 50 miles west of here, was seized by rebels a month ago today, and was regarded by the Zaire Government as an important target symbolizing its resolve to push back the invaders.

The town, perched on the railway that links up in Angola with a British-owned Benguela line, had a surprise strike just before dawn, the spokesman said.

The spokesman said that the advance was continuing towards Kasaji to the west, where a group of 12 Plymouth Brethren missionaries from Britain, New Zealand and Canada are based. They have not been heard of for several weeks, informed sources said.

The last major physical obstacle to the Government thrust was the Lubudi River, crossed by a damaged bridge which yesterday was still under repair.

"We repaired the bridge and crossed. The enemy knew we were advancing, but did not know we would cross the bridge quite," the spokesman said. "There were some wounded," he added.

Kasaji, the next target, was the scene of bitter fighting over a month ago.—Reuter.

Ethiopian plane hijackers shot

The crew of an Ethiopian airliner on an internal flight killed two hijackers trying to escape to Saudi Arabia today, Addis Ababa radio said in a report monitored in London. It described the men as members of the Eritrean Liberation Front. They were killed after a struggle, and the airliner landed safely at Addis Ababa.—Reuter.

Journalist expelled, page 6

The short-lived dismissal of Mr Jocelyn Stevens

By Sheila Black

An attempt to remove Mr Jocelyn Stevens, the chief executive, from the board of Beaverbrook Newspapers was foiled last week by Sir Max Aitken, the chairman, who is recovering from a stroke.

He reinstated Mr Stevens and confirmed his position. He was followed by the resignation of Mr Peter Hetherington, in-joke deputy chairman with Mr Stevens, a source close to Mr Stevens commented that "it was Cecil King's dismissal of Mr Stevens that had been a puffball".

Mr Stevens had a distinguished career in Austria, timing to coincide with the absence of Canada on business of Mr Harcourt, of Associated Newspapers. No developments talks concerning the sale of

the "Evening Standard" to Associated Newspapers, in an article by Lord Goodman, were expected during their absence but, in case of the need for immediate decisions, power of attorney was given to Mr Hetherington, who had been mainly responsible for the financial calculations of the proposed sale of the "Evening Standard" and the lifetime for the "Daily Express".

En route from London Airport on his return to Britain, Mr Stevens was told by Mr Hetherington that he had been dismissed by the board. He was asked not to return to the office and told that his possessions would be sent on to him.

Mr Stevens saw Sir Max Aitken, who immediately stated him. That was followed

by the resignation last Friday of Mr Hetherington, a resignation that coincided with the appointment of Sir Max's son, Mr Maxwell Aitken, to the main board of Beaverbrook.

The incident does not signify a discussion on the main issue, the sale of the "Evening Standard" to Associated, which owns the "Evening News". Except for Mr Charles Wintour, former editor and chairman of the "Evening Standard" and now managing director of the "Daily Express", the board is unanimous. Mr Hetherington also supported the deal. Mr Wintour is expected to approve if he can press home conditions governing the protection of "Standard" staff.

Two into one, page 14
Leading article, page 15



Mr Plazky: "All adrenalin."

Fresh cut by banks in cost of borrowing

Borrowing costs were reduced for the 10th time this year when clearing banks announced cuts in base rates from 9½ to 9 per cent. The fall, allowing last Friday's cut in minimum lending rate to 8½ per cent, means that the rate has been reduced by 1½ per cent since January 1. Most personal overdrafts will now cost between 12 and 14 per cent. Blue chip borrowers will pay 10 per cent.

Japan rebuffs UK
Senior Japanese official has described a "unilateral and unfeasible" the call last week by Mr Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, that Japan should double its imports from the United Kingdom in the next two years to rectify the trade imbalance between the two countries.

Cost of Strasbourg
The time and money spent by the British Government in answering complaints made against it to the European Commission of Human Rights at Strasbourg is greater than that of any of the 12 other countries that have ratified the convention allowing individuals cases to be taken to Strasbourg. Page 5

Britain offers deal on farm prices

In return for a slightly larger butter subsidy, the British Government is now prepared to accept the package of higher EEC farm prices which it rejected as too inflationary. Page 6

Tory vote strategy

The Conservatives will avoid a direct "no" vote at the end of tomorrow's Commons debate on the Government's prices Bill, but they have decided to table a reasoned amendment that might win support from Liberals and Unionists. Page 2

Pressure on pact

The social contract came under fresh pressure from clothing and engineering workers and the breakaway Scottish Labour Party. But the shop-workers' union voted to support a phase-three pay deal after its leader, Lord Allen of Fallowfield, had said the Government would fall if the pact was not renewed. Page 2

Foreign Office plan

The reported recommendation of the Think Tank, that the Foreign Office should be merged in an enlarged home civil service, might produce an even more powerful Foreign department. Functions of the Department of Trade and Ministry of Overseas Development would probably be attached. Page 6

No EEC move yet on Middle East

Dr Owen, Britain's Foreign Secretary, who is in Cairo, said yesterday that the time was not yet ripe for a Middle East initiative by the EEC, but the question might be considered later this year. He has had talks with Mr Ismail Fahmy, his Egyptian counterpart. Page 7

Ulster warning

A "loyalist" ultimatum gave Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, seven days to introduce tougher security and announce a new parliament. There were strong indications that a strike similar to that of 1974 might begin in a week's time. Page 2

Handicapped: Mr Pham Van Dong, the Vietnamese Prime Minister, has begun an official visit to Paris. Page 6

Robben Island: In great secrecy, a group of journalists is taken on a visit to South Africa's maximum security prison. Page 6

Uranium deposits: Carter energy proposals heat up debate in Australia on drawbacks of plutonium economy. Page 8

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HOME NEWS

Tories will divide Commons on prices Bill, but avoid direct 'no' vote

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

While avoiding a direct "No" vote on the Government's Price Commission Bill, which seeks to strengthen price controls, the Conservatives will divide the Commons tomorrow on a reasoned amendment that may win support from both the Liberals and the Ulster Unionists.

The Shadow Cabinet last night decided to table the following amendment:

This House declines to give a second reading to a Bill which establishes a system of price control that will discourage investment and destroy jobs without any genuine benefit to the consumer and does nothing to mitigate the Government's disastrous record on prices which are rising at 19.9 per cent compared with 3.4 per cent in October, 1974.

The Conservatives condemn the Bill as a measure of economic management, but recognize that it may be necessary, suitably modified in committee, as part of the bargain with the unions for a further instalment of the wage-restraint policy.

They would prefer the level of prices to be settled by greater competition, rather than by elaborate bureaucratic controls. They hope to defeat the suggestion that price controls should continue indefinitely.

On the latter point, they will probably succeed, because clause 17, which is involved in the argument, is also opposed by Labour backbenchers because of its impact on wage bargaining. The left-wing Tribune group, indeed, last night decided to demand that clause be withdrawn because it would render employers immune to actions for breach of contract if they reduced wages to keep within price control limits.

The Liberals have been critical of the Bill, drafted, because they think the criteria on which prices could be justified need to be clarified. They also want stronger powers to investigate monopolies and the nationalized industries.

Last night they had not decided how to vote on the Conservative amendment.

While the Conservatives were drafting their amendment yesterday Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, was in Grimsby, taking part in the campaign for Thursday's election, which was caused by the death of Mr Crosland, Foreign Secretary.

Mr Hattersley said he had no doubt that the people of Grimsby supported the Bill and wanted the Government to act decisively against unjustified price increases before polling. Mr Robert Blair, the Conservative candidate, ought to make clear where he stood, he added.

"If he would not support the Bill, there is no point in his running around Grimsby talking about prices. Nobody denies that inflation is the country's major problem. The present rate is bad for the economy as a whole, bad for individual families who struggle



Mr Thatcher and Mr Robert Blair, the Conservative candidate, studying the rising fish prices at Grimsby dock auction yesterday.

to balance their weekly budgets and particularly bad for the lower-paid, the pensioners and the large families."

Mr Hattersley said Labour's plan to control inflation had three main components. A third year of wages policy was required to reduce costs at home and bolster confidence abroad so that we could maintain the value of the pound.

Secondly, there had to be strict control on public expenditure. "It is impossible to confine the cuts to any one sector of government activity, but it is preposterous to demand increases in expenditure, as the Conservatives continue to do, and pretend to be responsibly concerned about inflation."

The third requirement was a robust resistance to any change in the value of the pound, unless the change could be more than outweighed

by other benefits to the British consumer.

Mr Hattersley said the Price Commission Bill contained the strongest and most effective powers to control prices that Britain had ever known. It would oblige companies contemplating price increases to give the price commission 28 days' notice of their intention. It would enable the commission to investigate any proposals that it suspected to be unreasonable or unnecessary and to hold the price at its original level while the investigation was carried out.

Most important, it would empower the Government, if the investigation confirmed that a price rise was unjustified, to extend the price freeze for nine months. The effect would be a price freeze on selected goods and services that might last for a full year.

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Phase three gets some backing and new threat

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The social contract came under fresh pressure yesterday from clothing workers, engineering workers' leaders, and the rebel Scottish Labour Party, but the shopworkers' union stuck to its traditional attitude of wage moderation.

Leaders of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers said in their report for the union's conference on May 9: "Since the beginning of the year annual price rises have outstripped wage increases—a situation which must be rectified."

The warning comes after rank-and-file demands for a return to free collective bargaining which is reflected in the agenda for the conference of the union's dominant engineering section next week.

Ministers will draw some comfort from the not unexpected decision by delegates to the conference of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers, which voted to oppose a return to unfettered pay bargaining. More surprising was the appearance of signs of revolt on the agenda of the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers, which confers next month.

Branches in Leeds, London and Liverpool are urging delegates to vote against any more wage restraint. The Manchester branch calls for rises of between 26 and 31.33 a week. The union, which has 110,000 members, operates in a low-paid industry and found difficulty in winning the phase one 55 rise in wages.

The Scottish Labour Party has circulated 2,000 Scottish trade union workers with a message calling for an "alternative strategy" and urging them to reject the "threats and blandishments" of the Government.

Mr James MacCallister MP for Ayrshire South, the party's leader, described Mr Callaghan and Mr Healey as "the political equivalent of quack doctors". He said that over the past few years there had been a well orchestrated ministerial campaign to lead the union movement, with warnings of the dire consequences of rejecting phase three.

Seven days' ultimatum by 'loyalist' leaders

From Stewart Tendler
Belfast

"Loyalist" leaders yesterday drew up an ultimatum for Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, giving him seven days to introduce a stricter security policy and announce a new Ulster parliament or face confrontation.

There were strong indications yesterday that the confrontation would take the form of a fresh loyalist strike, similar to the one in 1974, and the action might begin in a week's time. The ultimatum was produced by the United Ulster Action Council, which is seeking a meeting with Mr Mason.

The council is led by the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist party and MP for Antrim north, and includes among its members the Ulster Defence Association and the Ulster Workers' Council.

In 1974 the UWC organized the strike that brought down the power-sharing Administration, and the UDA, the largest Protestant paramilitary group, played an important part in enforcing the strike.

The morning's Belfast News Letter, a local newspaper, will carry an advertisement from the council, which reads in part: "In the name of the Ulster loyalist people we give notice to Mr Mason that he has seven days to begin a powerful and effective offensive against the IRA and announce steps to implement the Convention report. The road is open to you, Mr Mason. If you do not act now, Ulster loyalists will act."

It is known that a second half-page advertisement has been booked to appear in the newspaper on Friday but the council has not released the text. The council has met yesterday Mr Ernest Baird, leader of the United Ulster Unionist Movement, said: "We would not be putting in the advertisement without making some point about the rule of law. All we are saying is that at the end of seven days something will happen and it won't be a one-day wonder."

Mr Mason's first response to the prospect of a strike came in a statement last night after he had met leaders of the Orange Order, who want him to pursue a stricter security policy.

The statement said: "If the suggested action took place... old people, children, hospital patients and many others would be subjected to appalling difficulties. Nor could they ignore the disastrous effect on potential investors from abroad."

The people of the United Kingdom might not be sympathetic to a strike in the light of the many attempts to improve the economic and industrial condition of Northern Ireland, the statement said.

It added that the Ulster community should bear in mind that only the Provisional IRA could benefit from the chaos caused by a strike.

The statement shows that Mr Mason has clearly made up his mind that the strike could not be defined as a normal industrial dispute, which might hinder a Labour Government's attitude towards dealing with it.

Both Mr Harry West, leader of the Official Unionist Party, and Mr William Craig, leader of the Vanguard Unionist Party, have maintained their distance from the council.

Neave talks: Mr Airey Neave, Conservative spokesman on Northern Ireland, began talks with the United Ulster Unionist yesterday with the object of establishing a new concordat about security and political development in Ulster (his Political Staff writes). His meeting with Mr James Moynihan, leader of the Ulster Unionists at Westminster, and Mr James McCusker, chief whip, will resume today.

The loyalists were encouraged by Mr Neave's speech on Saturday which called for stricter measures and a "search and destroy" operation by a new counter-terrorist unit.

Mr Neave indicated that he intends to visit Ulster in the next 10 days to discuss the plan. A manila folder, charged with unlawfully killing Majella O'Hare, aged 12, as she walked to confession in a Roman Catholic church.

Private Williams, aged 24, of the Third Battalion Regiment, pleaded not guilty to the girl's manslaughter last August at Ballymoyer, co Armagh.

A reprieve expected for Mersey ferries

From Robert Parker
Liverpool

A reprieve for the Mersey ferries, the threatened closure of which has provoked opposition from several local MPs and among many local people, will probably be announced today.

The ferries were discussed at a meeting yesterday between Mr William Sefton, chairman of Merseyside County Council, and the chairman of the district councils in the area.

Today Mr Sefton is expected to recommend to the council the retention of the ferries for at least some transport use, as well as for leisure and amenity.

A sum of money has already been allocated to the ferries for next year.

The district council, which should decide what to do about the ferries, has no direct benefit from them, objects having to pay towards the loss they make a year. But it is thought that a compromise has been reached, involving a reprieve.

Enabling Bill is being promoted in the Commons by the Merseyside Passenger Transport Executive, which is successful, would give the authority power to close the four ferries operating between River Head in Liverpool and Birkenhead and Wallasey.

Head who stole from his school fined £300

From Our Correspondent
Northampton

Dr David Abbott, the 1850-year headmaster of a grammar school, who was fined £300 for stealing from his school, was yesterday ordered to pay £238 in compensation.

Dr Abbott, aged 39, of Roman Hill, Barton, Cambridgeshire, who resigned from Northampton Boys' Grammar School after his arrest early this year, pleaded guilty to four charges of stealing money from the school's machine in the common-room, stealing books and school funds, and fiddling his expenses.

He asked for 10 similar offences to be considered and was fined a total of £300 and ordered to pay £238 in compensation.

Strike holds up interviews for new race body

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

A one-day strike by 130 staff of the Community Relations Commission prevented interviewing yesterday for jobs at the new Commission for Racial Equality, which is to replace it and the Race Relations Board.

The strike, by members of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, is over two senior staff, Mr Surendra Kumar, and Mr Aaron Haynes, who the staff say, "have been made redundant although there are still vacancies in their grade."

Staff are worried that there may be more redundancies.

Miners injured

Six miners were injured when a runaway wagon crashed at Maerdy colliery, Mid Glamorgan, South Wales, yesterday.

Tussle begins for share-out of the rate-support grant

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

The local authority associations representing councils throughout England and Wales have begun bargaining for their shares of the Government's rate-support grant for next year, with the ink scarcely dried on rate demands for this year.

As ratepayers were considering their payments for 1977-78, comparing them with the 15 per cent increase in the national average by Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, the Association of County Councils said yesterday that the swing of resources to the metropolitan areas had gone too far.

Mr Carleton Hetherington, secretary, rejected the argument put forward by the Association of Metropolitan Authorities (AMA) that the swing to the cities had corrected a swing in the opposite direction from 1967 to 1973.

He said the non-metropolitan areas had had to cope with the needs of more people as the population had spilled out from the conurbations. "We do not accept the argument that there should be such a swing back."

The inner cities, to which Mr Shore had promised government resources, should be financed mainly outside the rate-support grant. His association believed "the best way to lift up the inner cities is by regenerating industry and employment, and money for that should come from the departments of industry and employment."

The association would like the system of providing money according to need to be adjusted to take account of the real needs, based on population, rather than have it based on the amount of past spending of an authority.

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities is arguing in favour of changing the system of providing money to the inner cities. It said that Mr Shore was under pressure from those who felt that more had gone far enough. "The switch has happened because the grant now recognizes the growing physical deprivation in the urban areas."

The AMA says that the gain to the contributions since 1974 has been 5.3 per cent, compared with a loss of 7.5 per cent from 1967 to 1973.

Police likely to reject new pay offer

The Police Federation is to continue its campaign for "fair play" on pay, despite a new offer made yesterday by the Home Office within the stage two guidelines on income policy.

A statement by the federation made clear that it was unlikely to be accepted. "We shall be pressing for very substantial improvements. The campaign for fair pay for the police will continue. Police are still being denied an award of £5 a week under stage one."

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Dartmoor jail officers to cut overtime

Prison officers at Dartmoor in their dispute over living conditions, decided yesterday to work only 10 hours a week, compared with the present average of 25 hours.

The 150 officers, who say they have the support of 150 British jills, also decided not to cooperate with a Home Office inspection team next week.

Shopworkers back social contract after warning that Labour could fall

From Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter
Scarborough

The social contract survived a crucial test among 400,000 shopworkers yesterday after Lord Allen of Fallowfield, chairman of the TUC economic committee, had given a clear warning that the Government would fall unless there was a phase three pay policy.

The conference of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers (Udaw), at Scarborough, voted two to one for an extension of income policy. But during an acrimonious debate it was far from clear which way the decision would go.

It was the first big union conference to vote on the TUC Government pact after grudging support for its continuation from the Wales and Scottish TUCs.

Lord Allen, who is the union's general secretary, was heckled as he appealed for another pay policy. He named eight proposals which the TUC would accept if they created the right economic and social climate for phase three. The recurring theme of his speech was that the door would be opened to Mrs Thatcher if the social contract was thrown out.

"The issue concerning us is whether we can hope to retain a Labour government and whether we have earned the right to do so," he said. "Are you prepared to place loyalty and trust in those in the TUC who are expected to represent the interests of our movement together with Callaghan, Foot, Healey and Benn? Or are you prepared to trust Keith Joseph and Mrs Thatcher?"

Delegates voted for a motion that commits the union to support a return to productivity bargaining and the reintroduction of "sensible differentials" in the next round of talks.

The vote in favour of continued restraint, 208,000 to 93,000, comes from a union whose members nearly all earn under £10 a week. Three-fifths of the members are women. The feeling among speakers advocating the pay policy was that the members have fared better under the social contract than they would have done with free bargaining.

Lord Allen's eight points for the basis of a phase-three bargain with the Government were: A permanent system of selective price controls; abolition of all or most income tax for more of the lowest paid; reintroduction of subsidies on basic foods; reform of the EEC's common agricultural policy; provision of another £1,000m a year for the National Enterprise Board; temporary selective import controls; a Government veto on redundancies while grant-aid schemes are expanded; stopping the City hindering the pound from rising on foreign exchanges.

He said that because the deal would largely pay for itself it would not violate the terms of the Government's letter of intent to the International Monetary Fund.

Lord Allen said the union was looking for a less rigid policy. "The need is for an orderly return to free collective bargaining which will help the low-paid at present caught in the poverty trap and remove some of the anomalies that have become apparent during the past two years."

He appeared unenthusiastic about "kitty bargaining" arrangement like Mr Healey, who addressed the conference on Sunday, Lord Allen told delegates that uncontrolled bargaining meant that those with the greatest muscle would take the greatest share.

Agency wants last word on strike action

Journalists employed by the Press Association said last night that they would not take industrial action on the instructions of their union's national executive unless the decision was also given majority support at a mandatory meeting of their own office branch.

More than eighty members of the PA's chapter (branch) of the National Union of Journalists met to consider a decision by the union's annual meeting last week that the executive should order PA journalists not to send news and photographs to newspapers involved in a dispute.

The conference voted after considering a dispute involving journalists at Kettering, Northamptonshire, which has lasted more than 20 weeks. The delegates also instructed the executive to call out on strike other journalists working for East Midlands Allied Press, the employer involved in the Kettering dispute.

Delegates accused the PA of strike-breaking because its news service was still being received by newspapers involved. Thirteen paid officials of the journalists' union, including the deputy general secretary, gave 28 days' notice of strike action yesterday.

Demonstrators again halt road inquiry

By Michael Horsnell

The second day of the renewed Archway road inquiry in north London was abandoned in uproar last night after 90 minutes of astonishing scenes between protesters and Department of Transport witnesses.

Objectors to the £11m scheme surrounded a group of seven men sitting in the public part of the hall and accused them of being government officials. Mr Ralph Rolph, the harassed inspector, refused a demand

that they should be seated elsewhere and adjourned the hearing for 20 minutes to the seven remained uncomfortably in their places.

When he returned he was unable to restore order and adjourned the hearing until today to shouts of "Spies out". Before the first adjournment the police were called in to remove a man who jumped on the stage.

Earlier there were angry exchanges over a refusal by the

commissioners to allow some people into the inquiry. Mr Rolph was told that people being informed that the hall was full although there were some empty seats.

Mr Rolph, who is holding most sessions of the inquiry in the evening as a concession to objectors, ordered that everyone should be allowed in.

The first inquiry was abandoned last autumn after disruption by protesters and the illness of the inspector.

Concorde's noise impact in its first year 'very small'

By Our Air Correspondent

The environmental impact of 327 movements by the Concorde at Heathrow during its first year of operations had been "very small indeed", according to a survey published yesterday by the Civil Aviation Authority. The year included British Airways scheduled services to Bahrain and Washington. The Concorde made 164 scheduled departures and 163 arrivals, slightly more than three a week.

Movements were spread over four routes and four runways, so that residents who had heard the Concorde would have found it a very infrequent experience.

It was estimated that the 327 movements added between one half and one to the noise and number index (the noise "contour" system around the

airport) for roughly 18,000 residents.

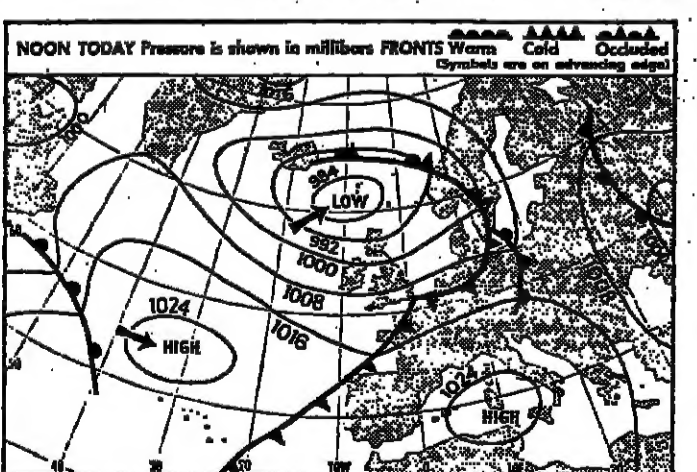
The Concorde had shown itself to be a noisy aircraft, but successive flights of the same type of aircraft showed a wide scatter of noise levels.

Concorde, like most aircraft, is noisier on departure between the airport boundary fence and the official noise monitoring sites, and it has been substantially noisier than subsonic aircraft here," the report said.

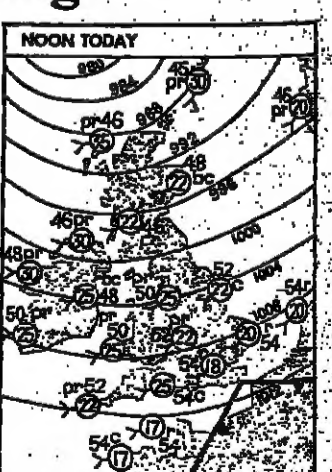
At the fixed monitoring sites, one departure in three has recorded the loudest noise of the day from any of the three runways used by Concorde. However, these levels have been no higher than the loudest subsonic departure.

Trends were not easily discerned, the report said. However, Concorde seems to have become a little quieter.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today
Sun rises: 5.43 am
Sun sets: 8.15 pm
Moon rises: 2.5 am
Moon sets: 11.51 am
First quarter: 3.42 pm
Lighting up: 8.45 pm to 5.11 am
High water: London Bridge, 7.27 am
Low water: London Bridge, 7.27 am
5.11 am (20.1ft); 7.36 pm, 6.0m (13.6ft)
10.7m (35.0ft); 12.30 pm, 10.3m (33.8ft)
Dover, 4.34 am, 5.3m (17.4ft); 5.10 pm, 5.2m (17.1ft)
Hull, 11.34 am, 5.9m (19.5ft)
Liverpool, 4.44 am, 7.6m (24.9ft); 5.26 pm, 7.3m (23.9ft)
Pressure will be low to the N of the British Isles. Troughs of low pressure will move E across England and Wales.
Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:
London, SE, E, NE England, East Anglia: Mostly cloudy, periods of rain, becoming brighter and mainly dry; wind SW, fresh or strong; max temp 12°; or 13°C (54° to 55°F).
Central S, SW, NW, Central N, fair; r, rain; s, sun.



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Vote of confidence in immigrants' service chief

By a Staff Reporter

Mr John Ennals, aged 59, director of the government-sponsored United Kingdom Immigrants' Advisory Service, has been given a vote of confidence by its executive council.

A motion of no confidence was defeated by 10 votes to four. The council had considered the confidential report of an inquiry into the running of the organization conducted at the council's request by Mr Thomas Critchley, recently retired Home Office official.

Lord Fox, chairman of the service, announcing the decision yesterday, said that after

consideration of Mr Critchley's "inquiry into allegations made in the press regarding the service and members of its staff, the executive council has expressed confidence in its director, Mr John Ennals."

His statement acknowledged Mr Critchley's assurance that the executive council "has every reason to be proud of the work of a fine and dedicated service."

Some of Mr Ennals's critics indicated last night that they consider the issue of his future as closed. But criticism by Mr Critchley of the organization and structure of the council are to be considered further.

Control of public spending made into a crusade

Continued from page 1

ment that the Government underspent by several hundreds of millions last year (precise figures will not be available until July), reviving criticisms of Treasury parsimony.

Mr Pliatky has never been happy with accusations of Gladstonian orthodoxy. He fought hard within the Treasury's Policy Coordinating Committee last year to keep cuts in public spending to a minimum. He always distinguished between cuts and spending control.

After Oxford and the Army, his first job was research secretary to the Fabian Society. His belief in social spending has in no way diminished since he entered Whitehall as an assistant principal at the Ministry of Food in 1947.

He has two years before retirement at 60 to make his mark in Victoria Street. But with the Department of Trade likely to be assigned a more important role if ministers accept the findings of the Berrill report on overseas representation, which will go before them at the end of next week, there should be scope for his legendary energy and reforming zeal.

Lady Yapp gets an acquittal

Lady Yapp, aged 32, wife of Sir Stanley Yapp, leader of West Midlands County Council, was found not guilty yesterday of being drunk and disorderly and obstructing a police officer in the West End of London.

After the evidence at Wells Street Magistrates' Court, the chairman, Mr Joseph Harris, said: "We do not think this case is anywhere near strong enough to have brought this lady down from Birmingham and we have no hesitation in dismissing these charges."

£400 fine over otters

British Airways was fined £400 yesterday for offences involving the handling of two otters that died in transit.

Teacher refused to compile secret dossiers

Miss Phyllis Bellchambers, a Portsmouth teacher, resigned when she was asked to compile secret dossiers on her pupils, a Southampton industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

She said she left Bay House comprehensive school in Gosport, where she had taught for 31 years, because she refused to be coerced into doing something morally repugnant.

Miss Bellchambers, aged 60, of Jellicoe Avenue, Portsmouth, is suing the Hampshire education authority for constructive dismissal, maintaining that its conduct in expecting her to compile the dossiers was so unreasonable that she had no alternative but to resign.

Seven years for double rapist

Christopher Young, aged 22, was granted bail after raping a virgin, aged 18, he had met in a nightclub, it was stated at Leeds Crown Court yesterday. Then he did the same again.

Boy had to eat birds' bread

Antony Speight, aged seven, ate bread left out for the birds because his mother did not feed him adequately, magistrates at Barnsley, South Yorkshire, were told yesterday.

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Overseas selling prices

Commodity	Unit	Price
Aluminium	ton	£1,100
Asphalt	ton	£15
Bitumen	ton	£12
Coal	ton	£10
Copper	ton	£1,200
Crude oil	ton	£1,500
Gold	ounce	£1,500
Iron ore	ton	£100
Lead	ton	£1,100
Natural gas	100 cu ft	£1
Oil seeds	ton	£100
Platinum	ounce	£1,500
Silver	ounce	£100
Steel	ton	£100
Wool	ton	£1,000

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HOME NEWS

A reprieve expected for Mersey ferries plans for bus services opposed

From Robert Parker, Liverpool

A reprieve for the proposed Mersey ferries bus services is expected after the Transport Correspondent has reported that the plans to replace 2,500 miles of rural roads with buses suffered a setback yesterday when transport consumer bodies refused to support the idea.

British Rail hopes that by replacing rural roads with buses, it will be able to cut its own costs and provide a more efficient service. The plan is to replace 2,500 miles of rural roads with buses over a period of five years. The cost of the scheme is estimated at £25m-£30m a year.

It is hoped the Government will allow it to keep, to step investment and traffic on the Inter-City and other routes.

The Central Transport Committee, consulted by British Rail about the plans, has expressed its opposition to the scheme. It said that the scheme would not do much to improve the service, and that it would be a waste of money. It also pointed out that the scheme would be a major disruption to the rural bus service.

Replacement buses would be a high standard of comfort, with facilities for luggage, disabled travellers and toilets, and new interchanges would be built. The scheme would also provide a more efficient service, with fewer stops and a more direct route. It would also provide a more reliable service, with fewer cancellations and delays.

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Head who shot from his school fined

David Abbott, 17, of 10, St. James' Road, Liverpool, was fined £100 for the possession of a gun. He was charged with possessing a gun with intent to endanger life. The gun was found in his school bag. He was also charged with possessing a gun without a licence. He was found guilty on both counts. He was sentenced to a year in prison, suspended for two years, and fined £100.

Strike holds up interviews for new race body

The British Racing Federation (BRF) has called for a "uniformly tough" penalties on foreign vessels caught illegally fishing in British waters. It said a £250 fine was imposed on a French skipper at Hull, caught using under-keel nets in the North Sea, while two Spanish skippers illegally fishing off Shetland were each fined £10,000.

Hope of prosperity from fish farming project

The old Duke of Sutherland, District Council has shared the same difficulty. What is to be done to make a million or more acres of splendid emptiness profitable and, in the case of the council, attractive to live in.

In the past century the dukes knew what modern planners would call pragmatic: remove the people and bring in sheep. The scars of that notorious piece of social engineering remain on the face of Sutherland today in desolate crofts and empty glens.

Sheep still outnumber people by 20 to one, the drift south of young people says community life and there is little to keep anyone not totally sustained by military scenery.

One significant census figure shows that in the district's 1,113,600 acres, from Cape Wrath to Golepie, there are only 28 permanent females aged between 25 and 30. Perhaps Sutherland girls pin their hopes on a better life elsewhere, they look elsewhere and leave the old folk at home. Sutherland, one crofter warned, has lots of very little and even more very heads.

Where the duke sent people away in a ruthless clearance, social planners today are trying to bring them back. A small but it is to be hoped, significant number is being made to turn the natural beauty of Sutherland into a more profitable account, to give a means and a reason for anchoring the community in the most under-populated part of Britain.

In the west, where scattered fingers of coastline dip into the Minch, there is the richest white fish industry in the Highlands. It is a high risk business. What some crofters are planning with the help of scientists and some funding from the Highlands and Islands Development Board is to farm the sea.

Scotland's output of farmed fish is about 3,500 tons, even though the coastline is ideal, being both unpolluted and washed by the Gulf Stream. West Germany, by comparison, produces 100,000 tons of fish annually, and several other Continental countries with inferior resources are far ahead of Scotland.

Mr Ian Teffer, development officer for Sutherland District Council, believes there is great potential for creating wealth and jobs. One estimate put a reasonable yield from coastal fish farms at 10,000 tons, which would earn £15m and create 700 new jobs.

In inland Sutherland a Swiss type of tourist economy is being encouraged through such enterprises as the Balmaclellan village and in other areas small

The local elections 6: Apathy may be majority party's biggest threat on Tyneside

Labour stronghold is no longer to be taken for granted

By Craig Seton

Labour must pin its hopes of retaining power on Tyneside and Wear Metropolitan County Council on its ability to persuade voters that local issues are more important than the party's national unpopularity.

If local issues play only a small part on May 5, the Labour majority is in danger. Labour holds 72 of the 104 seats on the council. The Conservatives have 26, with support from three of them Labour councillors, and the Liberals have three. Two seats are vacant.

With that much strength, Labour leaders are reluctant to take any risks, but will be satisfied with small and majorities. Conservatives and Liberals are convinced, however, that Labour will pay the price for taking its support in the North-east too much for granted too often.

A realistic assessment suggests the Labour majority will prove too large for the

Conservatives to take overall control. Their best hope is to become the largest party, perhaps by one or two seats, in which case the Liberals may achieve their best prospect of holding the balance of power.

The 104 seats will be contested by 254 candidates, including 101 from Labour, 97 Conservatives and 39 Liberals. Thirty minutes before nominations closed, five National Front candidates put themselves forward for seats in Sunderland, three of them Labour marginals. Three Conservatives are also likely to whittle down Labour majorities.

The National Front intervention in an area where male unemployment runs at more than 14 per cent is seen as calculated to exploit the growing apathy of Labour supporters there as high, long-term unemployment corrodes the morale of the town's working class.

Apathy may be Labour's biggest danger. At the election in 1973 the turnout at Tyneside and Wear was the lowest in the country, at 32 per cent.

Since then the tide has been with the Conservatives; Labour has lost almost three seats in the district council seats it has defended, and may lose 18 seats on the basis of swings recorded in the 1975 and 1976 district elections.

Labour will lose overall control if it loses 22 seats, which would require a swing of about 18 per cent. The success or failure of the Liberal campaign will be crucial to both main parties, but Liberal claims that they will increase their representation from three to about 15 seem highly optimistic.

Unemployment in Tyneside and Wear ranges from more than 6 per cent in Newcastle to more than 12 per cent in South Tyneside. Understandably, the Labour group, led by Mr Michael Campbell, have made industrial development a top priority.

Against a background of decline in the county's traditional industries, such as shipbuilding and heavy engineering, Mr

Campbell points out that 35 nursery factories have been built and 33 more are planned. A "loans for industry" scheme to help expanding companies has spread 1,000 new jobs throughout the county. A small companies finance board is also intended to assist companies with loans and grants.

The Labour group claims credit for having held public transport fares steady for nearly two years; kept the increase in the county rate per cent down to 1.5p this year; and enabled pensioners to travel free on county buses, ferries and trains.

During the four years of Labour control the Metro rapid transit system for Tyneside has become a reality, albeit at a cost of £161m, and the Labour group hopes that with car ownership as low as 35 per cent of all households in the county it will significantly improve public transport.

The Conservatives, led by Mr Arthur Grey, say the Metro concept was theirs. They are unhappy about the Labour

group's preoccupation with public transport to the detriment of the private motorist. They particularly want more help for ratepayers and would examine the county's rate structure with a view to possible cuts. They would also reduce council committee meetings, prune the staff and promise more autonomy to the districts. They are particularly scathing about the five consumer advice centres Labour established, costing £500,000 a year.

The Liberals consider Tyneside and Wear metropolitan county far too big and want it abolished. They want a directly elected regional authority, with many of the county's responsibilities transferred to district councils.

There is every indication that the Liberals will be badly squeezed as the two main parties fight for control, but if they manage to hold their three seats they may play an important role in the future administration of Tyneside and Wear.

chosen exclusively from the Civil Service.

The committee also recommends that Treasury control over the number of the Ombudsman's staff should be replaced with Civil Service control and that the scope of his jurisdiction should be widened. He should be empowered to investigate any "unreasonable, unjust or oppressive action" instead of "maladministration" and to undertake investigations on his own initiative. He should also have power to suggest changes in legislation.

Easier access to the commissioner would be achieved if complaints could be made directly to him by members of the public, who at present can do so only through MPs. A detained person should be able to send letters to him or an MP without the correspondence being opened.

Finally, the report urges, the commissioner should supply full details of his "results report" to the press unless asked not to do so by either the complainant or the referring MP. He should also make more use of press conferences and interviews on radio and television, and make his quarterly and annual reports more readable and informative.

Our Fettered Ombudsman (Justice, 2 Clement's Inn, London, WC2, £1.50).

Stronger role urged for the Ombudsman

By a Staff Reporter

The strengthening of the office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman) is urged in a report published today by Justice, the British section of the International Commission of Jurists.

The report, prepared by its committee on administrative law, comes 10 years after the Parliamentary Commissioner Act, 1967. It concludes that although the institution has worked well it has done so within a restricted frame of reference.

Its existence is not well known and is under used, the report adds. That is because the Ombudsman can be approached only through an MP and is limited to dealing with questions of alleged maladministration.

The institution is potentially one of the most important safeguards for the citizen, but it needs to be developed from its modest beginning and given a more effective and widely known role.

To that end, the committee of 16, chaired by Mr David Williams, QC, suggests that there should be an obligation to consult the Select Committee on the Parliamentary Commissioner before the appointment of a new commissioner and that neither the commissioner nor his staff should be

Thrift at hotel

The manager and elderly night porter of the Adria Hotel, Queensgate, south Kensington, London, were overpowered and bound by two men who took £10,000 from a safe early yesterday.

Diana Dors gains ban

Miss Diana Dors, the actress, has been granted a High Court ban until next Friday on the publication of her life story by Wolf Rilla, the author, and Everest Books.

Rabies law broken by Saudi prince

By Kenneth Gosling

A Saudi prince, aged 13, broke Britain's anti-rabies law when he brought two whippets into Heathrow airport, London, yesterday. Saudi Arabian Airlines was fined £500 and ordered to pay £50 costs. The prince was not summoned. The unnamed prince, travelling first-class, carried the dogs in a cardboard box. Mr Roger Cox, for the prosecution, said, "On arrival, an embassy Mercedes car was waiting for him. Mr David Rosser, chairman, said: 'There can be no exemption by rank or favour. Prince or not, the laws of this country have to be observed. In this particular situation, the obligation should have been all the more great.'"

Mr David Miller, for the defence, said the prince had travelled with a party of children in the care of a British teacher, Miss Julie Huxley. The crew had failed to notice the dogs in a dimly lit cabin during a night flight. Summoned to stand trial, Miss Huxley and the pilot, Captain Mahmood Bukhary, were withdrawn.

The airline admitted the offences, and was fined £300 for each dog.

The dogs were taken to an RSPCA hostel and put in quarantine.

Actors vote for 24-hour strike over cut in grants

By Kenneth Gosling

By a large majority actors and actresses voted yesterday for a 24-hour strike in protest against government cuts in grants for the arts. Equity members, worried about less money for the subsidised theatre, more closures, and a steady drop in employment, also urged the union to seek the support of other entertainment unions and at theatre workers.

The new Equity council will probably consider the demand at its first meeting today.

Yesterday's annual meeting deplored the sale to South Africa of a BBC television drama series, *How Green was my Valley*. The BBC described the sale as a mistake and offered an apology. Equity was also given £1,000 in compensation, since the sale was a breach of its policy that no programmes featuring its members should be sold to South Africa.

But Equity passed an emergency resolution demanding a public apology and a penalty payment "of such a 'mistake' will never be made again".

Mr Marius Goring, opposing the penalty payment, said that by accepting a "blood payment" Equity would be condoning what had happened.

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The union's council, in a statement reaffirmed its policy on South Africa; the BBC had declared it said, that it was not aware of that policy when the programme was sold. By the time the mistake was spotted the corporation could not legally prevent the showing of the last episode.

The conference carried resolutions calling for a minimum wage of £60 a week.

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Some spectacular Italian scenery is now available in Britain.

ENGLAND

Almshurst: William Sample Motors. Tel: 01665 3247.
Aldford: Laleham Garage. Tel: 01459 4591.
Aylesbury: Biddow Motors. Tel: 0494 44 525.
Basingstoke: Clover Leaf Cars. Tel: 0256 3896.
Bedford: Guss Valley Motors. Tel: 0234 6481.
Bexhill-on-Sea: Cooden Motors. Tel: 04243 2224.
Bingley: Jowett Motors. Tel: 019 66 3658.
Birmingham: Colmore Depot. Tel: 021 843 4001.
Blandford: Emberton Sports Cars. Tel: 02562 2358.
Bolton: Parkers of Bolton. Tel: 0204 31322.
Bournemouth: Rob Wallace (Winton). Tel: 0202 512121.
Bristol: Continental Cars Clifton. Tel: 0272 37199.
Bromley: Norman (Bromley). Tel: 01-460 2648.
Broughton: Hestle Auto Engineering. Tel: 0462 667235.
Burgess Hill: Tilly's (Sussex). Tel: 04446 43431.
Canterbury: Fries Motor Co. Tel: 0227 6297.
Cardiff: Charlie Oates. Tel: 063 373 2460.
Catterham: Chesham & Edwards. Tel: 21 42385.
Cheltenham: Swindon Road Service Station. Tel: 0242 32167.
Chester: Red Rose Motors. Tel: 0244 311404.
Chichester: Swan Garage. Tel: 0243 573271.
Chislehurst: David Short Motors. Tel: 0472 83592.
Colchester: D. Salmon Cars. Tel: 0206 46455.
Dorchester: Densham Service Station. Tel: 332 2345.
Derby: Mark Pritchard Motors. Tel: 0332 40599.
Doncaster: Springwell Motors. Tel: 0302 854674.
Epsom: Cornfield Garage. Tel: 0306 22244.
Exeter: Exmouth Garage. Tel: 0392 527653.
Exmouth: Exmouth Garage. Tel: 0392 527653.
Farnham: Huxford. Tel: 0257 82911.
Folkestone: J. D. Ross. Tel: 1962 (0303) 862113.
Forest Row: Wych Cross Motors. Tel: 034 281 3864.
Gillingham: Autocrafts. Tel: 01634 (0634) 52673.
Guildford: Punctics. Tel: 0483 63761.
Harrowgate: Atkinson's Motor Cars. Tel: 0423 886351.
Hartfield: C. Way Autos. Tel: 30 7123.
Hereford: Whitestone Service Station. Tel: 0432 75464.
Huddersfield: Lockwood Motor Garage. Tel: 0484 28244.
Hull: The Myron Garage. Tel: 0482 25649.
Ipswich: Goli Garage. Tel: 0473 78377.
Kew: Millar Bros. Tel: 0826 53073.
Kettering: Broughton Motors. Tel: 0536 790224.
Kidderminster: Colmore Depot. Tel: 0562 68211.
Kings Lynn: Hill & Osborne. Tel: 0553 85296.
Leamington: Thumby Garage. Tel: 0534 412143.
Lincoln: Purnell Enfield. Tel: 0522 31735.
Liverpool: Bolton & Sons. Tel: 051 489 4453.
LONDON.
N.W.7: Maurice Fraser. Tel: 01-898 8881.
S.E.1: Waseco Carriage. Tel: 01-928 1922.
S.W.1: Peter Wolfenden. Tel: 01-828 7819.
W.1: Parnham Garage. Tel: 01-835 5418.
W.4: The Chequered Flag. Tel: 01-698 0322.
Walsfield: Ben Morgan. Tel: 0623 810330.
Newcastle-upon-Tyne: Irvine Motors. Tel: 0233 32131.
Northampton: Broughton Motors. Tel: 0604 38787.
Norwich: Porter Motor Co. Tel: 0603 46346.



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Or the beautiful, practical Beta saloons, that combine sparkling performance with family accommodation.

Now there's the superb two-seater Beta Monte-Carlo with mid engine and rear

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* Prices of other models start at £3,984.95. Prices include VAT and Car Tax, inertia reel seat belts and delivery charges (UK mainland) but exclude number plates.

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Stansted: The Stansted Motor Co. Tel: 0278 612536.
Stockton-on-Tees: Dixon & Roy. Tel: 0442 551542.
Stoke-on-Trent: Wingrove & Pyle (Hank). Tel: 0782 20244.
Stratford-on-Avon: Miller Bros. Tel: 0788 68658.
Taunton: P. Sparks. Tel: 0382 24524.
Teelford: VG Vehicles. Tel: 0350 618081.
Thetford: Bates Wood & Kraling. Tel: 848 2851.
Truro: Playing Place Garage. Tel: 0872 862347.
Tunbridge Wells: G. E. Tunbridge. Tel: 0882 35111.
Walsley: New Brighton Garages. Tel: 051 638 0046.
Wallingford: Jack Ross. Tel: 01-647 4473.
Warminster: Rob Wallace (Conley). Tel: 087 338 383.
Weybridge: Tony Brooks. Tel: 0181 591155.
Widmore: Wilmot Motors. Tel: 089 54 2758.
Windsor: Delta Motor Co. Tel: 35 60707.
Wolverhampton: Carols Motors. Tel: 0902 25877.
Worcester: Clerkenham Motors. Tel: 0905 351821.
Worthing: H. D. Day & Son. Tel: 0232 41057.
Wroughton: Dick Lovett (Specialist Cars). Tel: 0793 812387.

SCOTLAND

Aberdeen: Glen Henderson Motors. Tel: 0224 28349.
Ayr: Glen Henderson Motors. Tel: 0182 8151.
Dumfries: Parnier Cars. Tel: 0282 28007.
Edinburgh: Glen Henderson Motors. Tel: 041 543 1155 (Provisional).
Glasgow: Glen Henderson Motors. Tel: 041 843 1155.
Moray: F. S. Nicholson. Tel: 2142.
Peebles: Brown Bros. Tel: 0721 20845.

WALES

Cardiff: Snow's Garage. Tel: 0222 20929.
Porthmadog: Snow's Garage. Tel: 0418 4029.
Swansea: Glanfield Lawrence. Tel: 0792 34537.
Haverfordwest: Fred Rees Garages. Tel: 0437 2426.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Belfast: Stanley Harvey & Co. Tel: 0232 41057.

ISLE OF MAN

Port Erin: Shore Garages. Tel: 062 483 2071.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Guernsey: St. Peter Port. Tel: 0473 43028.
Jersey: St. Helier. Tel: 0594 37357.
Tel: 0594 37357.
Tel: 0594 37357.

PARLIAMENT, April 25, 1977

Minister considering what action is needed after N Sea blow-out: company responsible for pollution

House of Commons

Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, is now considering what further action is indicated by the blow-out in the North Sea Ekofisk oilfield. In a statement on the incident, he said he would be keeping in touch with the Norwegian Government about safety matters, what caused the blow-out, and what other action might be necessary on the part of the countries concerned.

Mr Benn said: Oil is currently escaping at a rate of 2,000 to 3,000 tonnes per day and a large oil slick is forming. Responsibility for dealing with the blow-out and consequent oil pollution rests with the operator, Phillips Petroleum, and the Norwegian Government.

Yesterday I had talks in Oslo with the Norwegian Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Norwegian Government has been offered whatever help and assistance they require from the British Government in dealing with the incident. They will, of course, be keeping the Government in close touch with developments.

The priorities are to prevent the outbreak of fire, cap the well and stop the flow of oil and gas and deal with the oil spillage. The Secretary of State for the Environment (Mr Denis Healey) has responsibility in relation to measures required by the Government to deal with oil pollution at sea, which is now the first priority.

I am now considering what further action is indicated by the blow-out. I am in close touch with the Norwegian Government about safety matters, what caused the blow-out and what other action might be necessary on the part of the countries concerned.

Mr Tom King, Opposition spokesman on energy (Bridgwater, C), said: This is a serious matter and we note with regret that the British Government has been asked to operate for a British rig in similar circumstances.

The Department of the Environment published a report last week which said there was a 50-50 chance of a blow-out occurring on the North Sea oilfield in the next five years, and also that special procedures and arrangements for dealing with it were considered to be adequate. Does he believe that is so?

The gravity of what could follow from this accident underlines just what is at risk, and the kind of security and other arrangements which have to be made to prevent a blow-out of this kind.

Mr Benn—I associate myself with his regret that the team that mounted the platform yesterday under difficult circumstances has now had to withdraw. The weather conditions there are difficult apart from the technical difficulties which have not been experienced in similar circumstances elsewhere.

I have had a list prepared for me of the preparations made by this and other governments in 1969 and onwards, when the responsibility for oil spill clean-up was given to the Department of Trade, right through to discussions that took place at recent last week at an official level as part of a continuing series among all the signatories of the Bonn Agreement of 1969, which I will see this is made available.

It is also clear that with the best degree of preparations that could be made, there are hazards that cannot be anticipated. The number of preparations that can be made in advance of actual experience will have to be recommended in the light of this experience.

Mr Benn—I have been told, and I accept it from him, that his own command structures set up in Norway had come into existence only a few weeks before the blow-out. Dispersal ships were available with spray equipment, and the dispersant needed. There are obviously lessons to be learned from this and I am not giving the impression that I could possibly be satisfied.

Mr Varley defends operations of NEB

The National Enterprise Board had made an encouraging start, Mr Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, said. Apart from the eight Government shareholdings transferred to it, the NEB had made 15 investments on its own account.

The Government had always made it plain, said the NEB was set up, and the industry bill was before the House in 1975, that it was not part of Government policy that the NEB should be the repository of lame ducks or whatever the current phrase was.

We cannot be sure (he added) that every NEB involvement will be successful, but so far, they have operated on a prudent basis to the benefit of the nation.

Mrs Lynda Chalker (Wallasey, C)—In view of the continuing high structural unemployment on Merseyside, when does he expect the North-West director of the NEB to report on the current situation being undertaken in this serious problem?

Mr Varley—I have received a draft report from the NEB studying the situation not only on Merseyside but in the North-East too. I shall consider whether the first report, when we receive it, can be published.

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Nothing that has so far occurred

has revealed any obvious weakness. Even the arrival of the main from Texas was achieved within 18 hours of the accident.

Mr Benn, answering a further question, said: One of the things which became clear from earlier enquiries is that the operators must accept responsibility for pollution. They cannot off-load it on to governments. The operators have a keen interest in seeing this does not occur. Under the regulations, it is made every operator is required to submit to the Government, and has submitted, plans for dealing with an oil spill. All these plans, some of which I have seen, are of a high standard.

Mr Benn—Mr Griffiths is right in saying this is an international problem, and looked at against the magnitude of the spillage of this kind. North Sea is a lake; responsibility must be planned internationally. That was why in 1969 the Bonn Agreement was signed to co-ordinate action between the North Sea States. There has been continued contact as recently as last week between the Secretary of State for the Environment and the Norwegian Government on this question.

As to whether we have adequate resources in the North Sea to deal with such a spillage, we have always to rely on Mr Red Adair and his team, that is a matter on which the oil companies would give the answer.

Mr Red Adair has been used for Middle Eastern blow-outs for a long time. His team left Texas to deal with a blow-out in the Gulf of Mexico in 1969, and he has since then been working on the North Sea.

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reminder: that however good the

technology, it is not possible to eliminate all the difficulties associated with the use of oil.

Mr Peter Emery (Hendon, C)—What percentage of oil delivered to this country could be affected in the next two years by this accident?

Mr Benn—It is impossible to indicate from one blow-out that we hope will be corrected what effect this will have on oil supplies to the United Kingdom over the next two years.

Mr Dennis Canavan (West Strathclyde, Lab)—Who is liable for the damage this oil slick may cause to the fishing grounds off the Scottish coast? Instead of public money being used to fight the bill should it not come from the oil companies?

Mr Benn—The Government would not like to see a situation where the oil companies are responsible for pollution. That is why I am not anxious, among other things, to take over responsibility for a function which properly lies with them.

Arrangements with the Norwegians are close. We have been discussing with them over a long period exactly how we would react in a situation exactly like the one which has occurred. We have not yet decided what we were taken by surprise. We were discussing as recently as 10 days ago and many years before.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab)—Did he have the impression from the Scottish National Party spokesman that while on the one hand he was still claiming that North Sea oil was Scottish oil he was at the same time suggesting that if unfortunately there was a disaster in the North Sea he would disclaim all responsibility for the consequences of it?

Mr Benn—I appreciate the point he is making. In this area we are inter-dependent. No country could be completely self-sufficient in being ready to cope with every possible situation.

Mr Alex Fletcher (Edinburgh, Lab)—One or two of Mr Benn's answers have indicated that the Government are more sceptical than participants. Will they try to make a contribution to the oil companies and Ministry of Defence to set up an operation based on Aberdeen or Lerwick to deal with the future build up of oil in the North Sea?

Mr Benn—In fairness, I did not imply that the Government were sceptical. We have the powers—and have discharged them—to take people with allegations to put forward plans to deal with spillage. I have seen one plan of 100 pages. We also have our own back-up facilities.

Aberdeen and Lerwick are already centres and there are no Lowland to deal with the southern North Sea basin.

We were not taken by surprise by something which was always looked on as a dangerous possibility.

Mr George Younger (Ayr, C)—The prevailing wind is not reliable at this time of year and frequently blows from the east and north-east. Will Mr Benn be taking steps to ensure that the oil companies and Ministry of Defence to set up an operation based on Aberdeen or Lerwick to deal with the future build up of oil in the North Sea?

Mr Benn—The Secretary of State for the Environment and Scotland have already taken action in conjunction with local authorities.

I am well aware that there is a hazard to the Scottish coast—although, in this case, North Sea oil is unlikely to reach it. It does not leak out of the tank, but half of it evaporates as a gas which is a hazard as a fire risk and the rest is toxic to fisheries.

All these matters are understood by the Government and by operators. Such appropriate measures as can be taken will be taken, but no doubt there is much to learn and we aim to learn.

Mr Varley—I have always acknowledged that British Leyland will have to have investment from public funds and this was envisaged by the Ryder report. In the car industry, there is a danger that the firm will not be able to survive without public money.

Mr Alan Clark (Plymouth, Sutton, C)—Is it an industry where the Government have a duty to intervene? The employment figures at Leyland have dropped. Would he not agree that where there is a diminishing number of jobs available, it is the duty of the Government to intervene?

Mr Varley—I am not sure that it is the duty of the Government to intervene in such a case. It is the duty of the Government to ensure that the industry is able to compete in the world market.

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Difficult negotiations on heavy electrical plant industry

Negotiations over the future structure of the heavy electrical plant industry were extremely difficult, Mr Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, stated when he indicated during question time that he was not in a position to give any kind of specific assurances.

The Secretary of State complained that recent statements by Mr Mike Thomas (Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Lab) did not help the position. Wild and inaccurate statements from any source, misinterpreted and mischievous, only added to the Government's difficulties, he said.

Mr Thomas (Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Lab) had asked the Secretary of State for a statement on the outcome of his consultations on the future of the heavy electrical plant industry.

Mr Varley (Chesham, Lab)—I expect to be in a position to make an announcement shortly.

Mr Thomas—Would Mr Varley give me two categorical assurances? The first is that the option of placing a Drax B order with Parsons and telling GEC it will get no orders until it cooperates with the Government in a national company, is still firmly open.

Will he underwrite the assurance given by Reynolds management at A. Parsons that they will not encourage any discussions with GEC without the agreement of the workers and can we have an assurance from Mr Varley he will not put Reynolds Parsons management in a position where they will have to pursue that course?

Mr Varley—I am not in a position to give any kind of specific assurances one way or another. I can only tell him that negotiations are extremely difficult.

He will know, as well as I, having read the CPS report, that it is extremely difficult to see some restructuring of the heavy electrical plant industry. Negotiations so far have been extremely difficult and I am bound to tell Mr Thomas that his statement over the last few days has not helped the position.

Mr Arthur Jenkins (South Shields, Lab)—I refer him to page 84 of the CPS report, which said the essential condition for maintaining a viable power plant industry in the long-term is a firm contractual commitment of the CPS to a steady order programme.

Can he say what kind of effect this will have on the Reynolds plant, which is also involved?

Mr Varley—The NEB have been doing a great deal of work and they have played a leading part.

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Mr Kenneth Clarke, an Opposition spokesman on industry (Rushcliffe, C)—Will he give an assurance that in reaching a final decision he will bear in mind not only the views of the National Union of Metalworkers and those working for Parsons in Newcastle, but also the interests of the consumers of electricity in this country who will have to foot the bill if we under excessive power stations?

Mr Varley—I do not have ministerial responsibility for the electricity supply industry. I refer him to page 84 of the CPS report, which said the essential condition for maintaining a viable power plant industry in the long-term is a firm contractual commitment of the CPS to a steady order programme.

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Mr Varley—Questions of the CEBG and the Drax power station must be addressed to the Secretary of State for Energy (Mr Benn). I know of Mr Conlan's concern, and that of others, on preserving jobs. This is a factor we have in mind in considering these matters.

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HOME NEWS

AUEW will be asked to endorse stoppage by engineers at Heathrow

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Leaders of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers are today to consider a recommendation that the strike by Heathrow maintenance men, now in its fourth week, should be made official.

Mr Reginald Birch, the London area member of the AUEW engineering section, will propose endorsement of the action at a meeting of the union's executive committee on Wednesday. The meeting will be held at the headquarters of British Airways, at Heathrow, and will be attended by representatives of the union and the airline.

At a meeting in a Southall hall yesterday the strikers voted to continue their action. Talks with other unions on a common claim for pay and conditions are continuing today, but there is much inter-union antagonism over the dispute.

In talks last Friday the engineering workers' five negotiators, who have been siding the strike, maintained that the other unions refused to talk about a joint shift-work deal for 11,500 maintenance

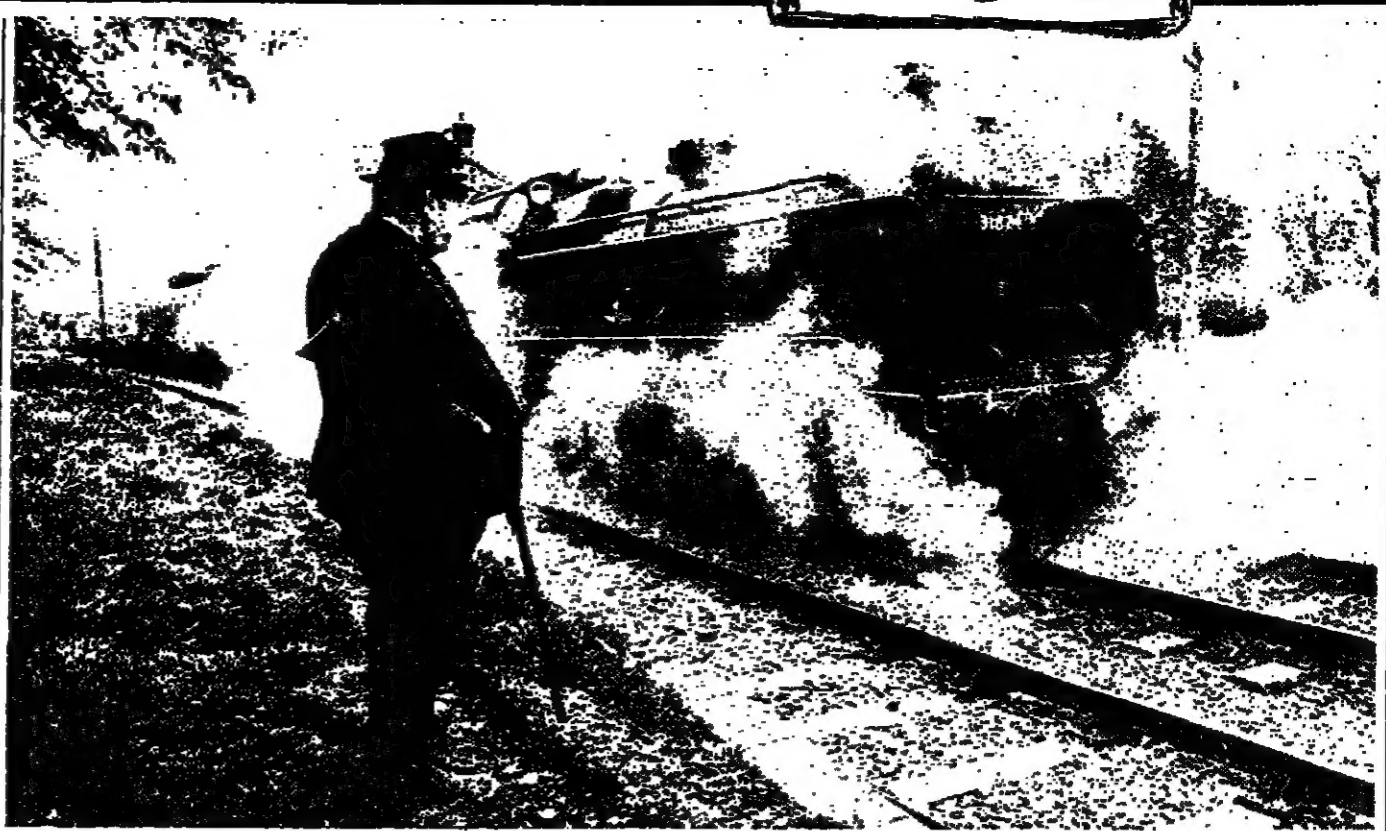
Full-pay car workers play cards in canteen

British Leyland said yesterday that it was paying about £60 a week each to 90 workers who spend the day in the canteen at the car body factory at Castle Bromwich, West Midlands. The men collect full wages although all have refused alternative work. According to some reports they play cards and dominoes.

The situation arose out of an agreement that ended a strike 18 weeks ago. Paint-shop workers had been told they would have to move to other jobs. But it was agreed that cases of men unwilling or unable to move jobs would be referred to the Transport and General Workers' Union at national level.

So far 250 men have accepted alternative jobs leaving the 90 unemployed. A union official said many had been doing the same work all their lives, such as skilled rectifying or paint spraying. The only work they had been offered was spot welding, for which some were not suitable.

The management said it is arranging a meeting with the union, possibly next week.



Watercross line: With the granting of the first light railway order directly from the Government to a private line, the Alresford and Ropley section of the Winchester and Alton Railway reopens to the public on Saturday. In May, 1975, the board decided

to launch a public share issue to raise enough capital to enable the company to operate over the Mid-hants watercross line, which British Rail had ceased to use. Alresford has been the main source of watercross in southern England for about 116 years of use. Yesterday the company ran a steam train

between Alresford and Ropley for the press. It is seen above, hauled by an N class locomotive Azmar, being watched by Mr Edward Colebrook, a landowner. Alresford has been the main source of watercross in southern England for about 116 years of use. Yesterday the company ran a steam train

2p a lb rise likely in margarine prices

By Hugh Clayton

Margarine prices will rise by about a tenth next month when the Price Commission has processed claims from manufacturers. The last rise was a fortnight ago.

The price is being pushed up by rising oil and fat costs just as the EEC has begun a determined effort to curb increases on butter.

Mr Victor Hill, managing director of Kraft Foods, said yesterday that his company had told the commission in the past fortnight that it needed an increase. He would not say how much had been claimed, but the rise is expected to equal the 2p a pound which shoppers faced earlier this month.

Van den Berghs and Jurgens, the Unilever company that supplies more than half the margarine eaten in Britain, has also asked for a rise of about 2p a pound. The company, which makes Stock, Echo, Blue Band, and Flora margarine, raised prices by 2p a pound a fortnight ago. It pointed out yesterday that oil prices have risen sharply.

Rules proposed for lorries with dangerous cargoes

By Our Transport Correspondent

Heavy lorries carrying dangerous substances will be forced to carry special identification marks under draft rules proposed by the Health and Safety Commission.

A successful trial scheme, the new regulations will require all lorries with dangerous cargoes to carry a prominent hazard warning panel giving the following information:

- A diamond warning sign, internationally recognized for

Britain spends the most time and money in answering complaints made to Strasbourg

From Christopher Walker
Strasbourg

The time and money spent by the British Government in answering complaints made to the European Commission of Human Rights is greater than that of any of the 12 other countries that have ratified the convention allowing individual cases to be brought to Strasbourg.

For the past three years Britain has topped the tables prepared by the commissioners for the number of individual applications made against each country. Last year there were 153 against Britain, 142 against West Germany and only 30 against Switzerland, the country with the third highest total.

In addition to combating individual complaints, Britain has also had to meet the costs of the protracted tortoise case instituted by the Irish Government. After the recent hearings before the European Court of Human Rights those costs are believed to exceed £500,000.

There are many reasons for the many complaints made against Britain, including the continuing crisis in Ulster, which has left 250 individual claims of various breaches resulting from internment, adjoined, pending the court's verdict on the inter-state dispute.

Two hundred cases brought on behalf of holders of British passports in East Africa await a ruling by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. All allege a breach of article 1 relating to political rights.

Champion arises for disadvantaged youth

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

Youthaid, which has been given £26,000 a year for the first two years, yesterday announced its arrival on a scene dominated by the state-run Manpower Services Commission (MSC).

Mr Christopher Brooks, aged 26, resigned early this year as a manpower economist for the National Economic Development Council to become director of Youthaid. His main complaint against the commission is that the state-financed body is concentrating unduly on those who least need help, the educated, the motivated and the articulate.

Tories suggest training for school managers

By Diana Geddes

Training courses for the hundreds of thousands of school governors and managers on school boards in the maintained sector should be provided by local education authorities, Mr John Stevens, opposition spokesman on education, said at a press conference yesterday to launch a new handbook.

Unit says wages councils may collapse

By a Staff Reporter

Three million of Britain's poorest workers may lose the protection of legal minimum rates of pay because the wages council system, which sets the rates, may be in danger of collapse under the strains of income policy, the Low Pay Unit says today.

Mr Glyn Picton, an economics lecturer at Birmingham University and chairman of four wages councils, argues in the unit's Bulletin that if the next phase of income policy provides for more flexibility while inflation continues, the traditional procedures of wages council may be inadequate for determining a variety of minimum rates.

Bench warning as eight football hooligans are sentenced

Eight football supporters were given custodial sentences by Mr Peter Badger the West London magistrate, yesterday. One of the eight had a previous conviction for assault.

Mr Anthony Hollahan, QC, for Dr Bloom, told Mr Justice Eveleigh that Mr Litchfield and Miss Kent accepted that any such allegation would be wholly untrue. Dr Bloom was content to let the matter rest.

Mr Hazell pushed and threatened another supporter who was under arrest, a police officer told the court. Mr Hazell, who earns £65 a week and is a QPR supporter, had nothing to say in court.

Mr Badger sent the seven other younger defendants to a detention centre for three months. Six admitted using threatening behaviour, and the seventh having a stone as an offensive weapon. Four of the seven were Newcastle supporters.

At Cardiff Magistrate's Court Sir Lincoln Hallinan, the South Glamorgan magistrate, jailed two supporters for offences after the Cardiff City and Wolverhampton Wanderers match last month. He said that people causing trouble at football matches faced prison sentences.

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Bomb suspect faces three further charges

Ciaran McMorrough, a bomb suspect, faced three additional charges, including membership of the Provisional IRA, when he appeared again in the Special Criminal Court in Dublin yesterday.

Mr McMorrough, aged 27, who was arrested after a gun battle near the Irish border last month, had his trial on a total of five counts set for May 5. The new accusations put to him yesterday were shooting at an Irish Army soldier with intent to commit murder; having firearms with intent to prevent arrest; and membership of the IRA.

He had already been charged at earlier hearings with having firearms with intent to endanger life, and having detonators and fuse wire. Mr McMorrough, who was remanded in custody, spoke only in Irish.

Mr McMorrough was named in 1974 by Scotland Yard as a prime suspect for up to sixty terrorist bombings in Britain. So far there have been no moves to extradite him.

Nine years' jail for man in drug smuggling plot

From Our Correspondent
Gloucester

Ronald Rees, aged 33, an importer, was jailed at Gloucester Crown Court yesterday for nine years for running the "English and" of a cannabis smuggling plot.

Mr Rees, of Brynmill, Swansea, was convicted of illegally importing more than 4cwt of cannabis valued at £250,000, into Britain. The drug was said to have been found in a secret compartment in the base of a container full of melons from Turkey.

Mr Rees, whose company had hired the container, said he knew nothing about the cannabis and thought the secret compartment contained gold from Lebanon.

A A Turkish company director and a Turkish hotel keeper, were cleared by the jury of being involved in the offence, about whom the jury could not agree, was also released after the prosecution had said it would not ask for a new trial.

Bill 'would make it harder to get lawful abortions'

By Our Health Services Correspondent

The private member's Bill to amend the Abortion Act, now before Parliament, would wreck the work of the abortion charities, the British Pregnancy Advisory Service says in a detailed criticism published today.

If the proposals become law, the charity, which is the largest provider of abortions outside the National Health Service, will have to be struck from the approved list. The overall effect of Mr William Benyon's Bill would be to make it more difficult for sympathetic doctors to help women to obtain lawful abortions and make it easier for unsympathetic doctors to refuse help.

The Bill, according to an assessment by 1,200 doctors, was based on the recommendations of a truncated select committee on abortion whose members were widely known to be in favour of restrictive abortion policies. It did nothing to overcome the most important matter: the regional variation in the availability of abortion on the NHS.

Abortion on demand appeared to be the bogymen of Mr Benyon and his supporters. The British Pregnancy Advisory Service believed that by providing market competition for those who, after the Act, set out to exploit women commercially, had been the biggest influence in riding the private abortion sector of profiteering and abuse.

Seven days to save a child

Save the Children Week 24th-30th April

Every week, children throughout the world are desperately needing your help. And although we're working all year round, for seven days we'll be making an extra special effort.

Please help. For every £1 you give, 87p is for children, only 13p goes in administration, 3p to publicity and 7p to fund raising.

Let's make this week count.

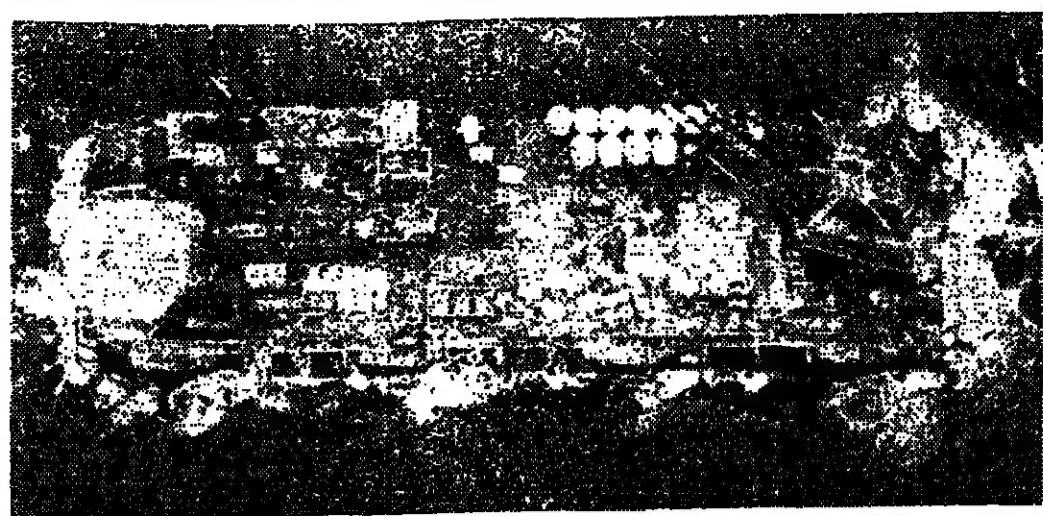
Save the Children is an international organization which helps children in need in over 50 countries, including the UK.

Please accept my donation of £1 (enclose cash/postal order/cheque/Giro No. 5173000).

Save the Children Y

The Save the Children Fund, 157 Clapham Road, London SW9 0PT.

EKOFSK DISASTER



The supply barge serving as the base for work to stop the oil leak from the Bravo rig.

Oil blow-out could be stopped tomorrow if roughening seas allow

By Roger Vielvoys
Energy Correspondent

Mr. Bill Thompson, director of drilling and production for Phillips Europe-Africa, said yesterday he hopes to have the blow-out well on the Bravo production platform "killed" by tomorrow evening. But he gave a warning that the sea in the Ekofisk area was getting rougher and the success of the operation would be determined by the weather.

He also disclosed that the crew, working on the well with the blow-out occurred, had been unable to screw a 41-inch steel tube, containing a safety valve, into the wellhead.

It normally took about two minutes to screw the tube into the wellhead and shut off the oil flow. It seemed likely that there had been an obstruction, which had prevented the screwing operation; but he declined to speculate on what it might have been or how it came to be there.

Mr. Thompson said the tube was always kept on hand during work-over operations, but it was not normally needed once the well had been stabilized by pumping tons of mud into the hole.

The crew had removed the "Christmas tree" and were installing temporary blow-out preventers before attempting to re-cure a cylindrical logging tool that had been lost down the well six months earlier.

The danger of fire on the rig

had now largely passed, Mr. Thompson said. The team would be using special brass tools that would not produce sparks and they would also bring in air tools.

Their first job would be to clean up the area around the open wellhead. Bolts on the first of the temporary blow-out preventers would then be tightened and new rams inserted to cut off the oil flow.

A 1,500lb specially constructed valve unit would then be bolted on top of the wellhead, to enable the crew to pump mud into the well and bring the oil flow under control.

Working conditions on the rig were difficult, he said. All supplies including power and mud had to be brought in from the pipelaying barge, Chocoma, which was now alongside the platform. This would mean laying special pipes across the platform.

In the event of the crew not being able to stop the oil flow by mechanical means at the wellhead, Phillips would rig in a semi-submersible rig to drill a relief well.

Mr. Thompson said that Well B14, which is out of control, had been drilled directionally and had penetrated the reservoir 2,300 feet south-west of the platform.

The drilling rig, now being brought in, would drill vertically into the reservoir at this point and divert the oil flow from the platform. This operation could take 30 to 45 days.

\$25m limit on claims for pollution damage

By Martin Huckerby

Under an international agreement, liability for pollution damage caused by the Ekofisk oil spill is limited to only \$25m (£14.6m) the Department of Energy said in London yesterday. A new convention, providing much higher compensation, was agreed in December, but it has not yet been ratified by Britain, and cannot come into operation before next month at the earliest.

Liability for damage from the Ekofisk oil comes under the existing Offshore Pollution Liability Agreement (Opol).

Under its terms, if any of the Ekofisk oil reaches the shores of Britain, claims for compensation can be made directly to Phillips Petroleum in theory anyone can claim, but local authorities would normally be responsible for seeking the compensation.

The department said that claimants were required to sign an agreement that, in the event of their acceptance of any money from an Opol member, they would not attempt to recover any outstanding amount from the operator via court action.

Thus if claims exceed the \$25m limit in the agreement, claimants dissatisfied with the amounts offered would presumably have to seek redress through the courts.

Scots group lists oil mishaps

From a Staff Reporter
Aberdeen, Fife

The blow-out on the Ekofisk platform has been added to a list of disasters drawn up by a group of scientists and engineers in Aberdeen and Dairgry Bay to establish that the petrochemical industry does not have all the answers to making its process plants absolutely safe.

The two towns on the north shore of the Forth estuary are opposing plans by Shell and Esso to build a terminal for liquid petroleum gas tankers on a nearby headland. The terminal would be linked by pipeline to a gas separation plant near Cowdenbeath, about seven miles away.

The residents' action group is demanding a planning inquiry, instead of the normal public inquiry, because of the complex technical aspects involved. In its report the group cites 13 serious accidents at petrochemical plants throughout the world which have caused damage estimated at £140m.

Dr David Jamieson, a spokesman, said: "It is incidents like the Ekofisk blow-out that happen at all, it shows that nature can still take control."

"Even worse was the explosion three weeks ago at Umm Said, in Qatar, which has had very little publicity. A natural gas liquefaction plant built two years ago blew up and was destroyed, causing £40m damage, killing seven people and injuring more, some of them more than a mile away. This was the same kind of plant as that proposed in Fife."

The report, published by a technical sub-group, catalogues 12 other accidents, including Flixborough in 1974, and correlates the explosive energy potential at the proposed terminal at some 10,000 to 15,000 tons of TNT, or about three quarters the explosive power of the Hiroshima atom bomb.

The report states that recent evidence demolished the assumption that detonations following leaks of liquefied petroleum gas were virtually impossible. Disasters at Lake Charles, in Louisiana, and Flixborough had involved comparatively small leaks yet were accompanied by extremely violent explosions, affecting square miles, followed in some cases by extensive fire storms.

There are also vital white fish and herring spawning grounds off the north-east coast of Britain and off the Scandinavian and Dutch coasts that if contaminated would reduce enormously the population of North Sea fishing grounds.

In spring as daylight increases, the phytoplankton near the surface bloom by absorbing sunshine and nutrients from the sea. Concentrations of oil and detergents kill the microscopic marine life, thus disrupting the food chain.

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The report also lists the three-year-old platform, worth about £25m, is dealt with by Oil Insurance Ltd, a joint insurance pool based in Bermuda. The Lloyd's market and other commercial insurers provide only about 15 per cent of cover for the platform.

Spillage comes at worst time for marine life

By Our Science Editor

Like the Torrey Canyon which happened in March, 1967, the present spillage has come at the worst time of the year. Oil pollution presents its greatest threat to marine life in early spring.

The North Sea is a rich fishery ground because of a flourishing food chain which starts with an abundance of microscopic plants (phytoplankton) on which fish organisms feed to be eaten themselves by larger fish.

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By Our Science Editor

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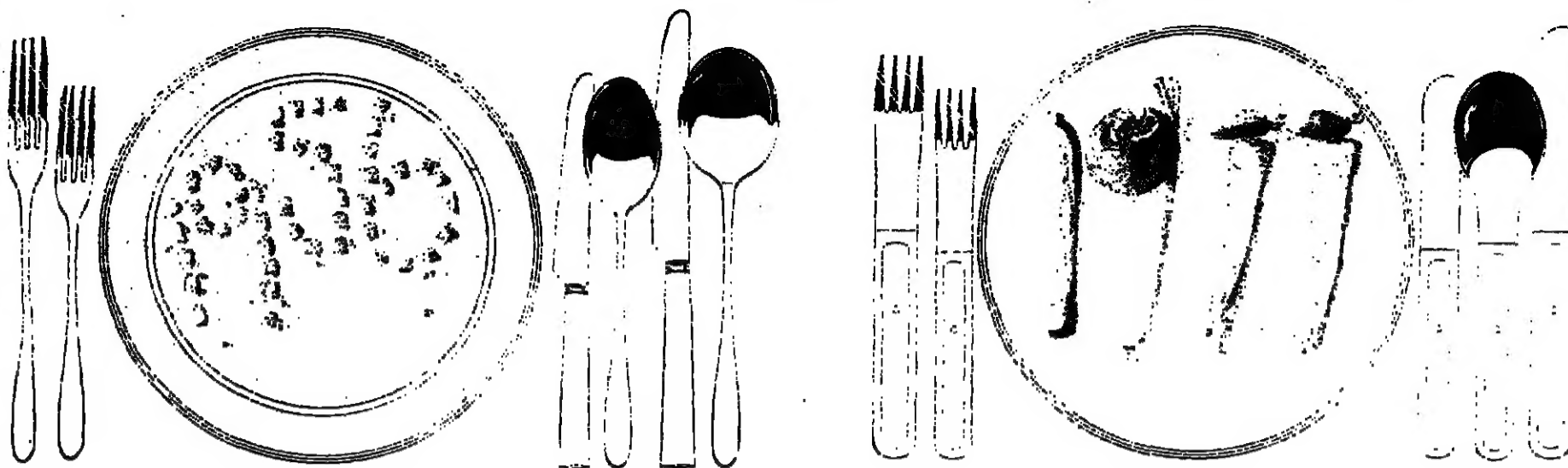
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Like the Torrey Canyon which happened in March, 19

INVESTMENT IN DESIGN

The Design Centre, shop window for the Design Council, was opened by the Duke of Edinburgh on April 26, 1956. This Special Report, which marks the twenty-first anniversary of that occasion, looks at this year's Design Awards—announced today—and examines the contribution of design to Britain's industrial performance



Nigel Holmes

These two sets of cutlery, designed by David Mellor of Sheffield, underline a paradox that lies at the heart of good design: tastes change, but "taste"—that elusive quality—endures. The set on the right, Chinese ivory (it also comes in black), was launched at the end of 1975 and has won one of this year's eight Design Awards for consumer and contract goods. The other set, Pride, won an equivalent award in 1957—the year that the then Council of Industrial Design launched its annual scheme. The design of each set can easily be dated. Pride is an elegant, spindly product of the mid-1950s, styled when memories of the Skylon were fresh in the public

mind; the snug, squat shapes of Chinese ivory are equally attuned to the tougher spirit of today's architecture—they would look splendid, for instance, in one of the restaurants at the National Theatre. Similar contrasts may be drawn in relation to their manufacture. The silver-plated nickel silver used for Pride is coined and forged, while the knife handles are made of white xylonite; the broad, flat blades of Chinese ivory are cut out from sheet steel—"like a reel of Sellotape", Mr Mellor says—and the handles are moulded in acetal resin. Prices and weight may reflect something of the difference: Pride costs

more than Chinese ivory (£25.60 for eight pieces, as against £19.62) and weighs less (380 grams as against 540). More than 4,000 six-piece settings of Chinese ivory have been sold since the range was launched 18 months ago. Pride was relaunched only at the beginning of this year, "but already the response has been overwhelming", its designer says. "Some people, seeing it for the first time, liked it for itself, others recognized an old friend. It all goes to prove, I suppose, that you can't keep a good design down." Both sets are available from David Mellor at 4 Sloane Square, London SW1, or 1 Park Lane, Sheffield.

by James Pilditch

"I am in a rut and I like it. Ruts are so comfortable." That was said about the Council of Industrial Design by a girl who worked there. Not yesterday. In 1957.

If that sounds critical of what is now the Design Council, which this year celebrates the twenty-first anniversary of its Design Centre, it is meant, on the whole, to be the reverse.

"It is there", a journalist said of the council recently. His tone implied it always has been. Because in Britain you probably have to be venerable to be respected, the Design Council's air of solid permanence may be counted a triumph.

Established in 1944 by the President of the Board of Trade to "promote by all practicable means the improvement of design in the products of British industry", the Design Council today enjoys a stature, weight and competence beyond parallel in the world. While the work of the Duke of Edinburgh—Lord Snowdon (often behind the scenes) and others has undoubtedly been a brilliant influence, the sustained achievement of the whole staff and directors—present and past—deserves to be honoured.

Today the Design Council spends £3m a year (almost 40 per cent of which it generates itself) on a span of activity too daunting to describe. It runs the Design Centre in the Haymarket, an office in Cardiff and the Scottish Design Centre in Glasgow. It publishes magazines and books; it tries hard to improve design education (to which it attaches great importance) and helps firms to find designers.

It keeps an index of what it considers well-designed products, runs courses and conferences (23 last year on topics ranging from flame retardancy to farm buildings), administers scholarships, helps craftsmen, stages exhibitions both abroad and at home in subjects as diverse as "Things to buy from Wales" and designs by a Mississippi riverboat to corrosion and terotechnology, whatever that may be. The council helps British firms to export, has advisory committees in various industries and collaborates with dozens of other organizations.

Design Council awards are well known. Less known, though of immense potential, is the down-to-earth work of engineering field officers. They are qualified engineers who visit firms, diagnose problems and recommend improvements.

At the Design Centre you can buy a jubilee souvenir, choose a rug or refrigerator, and learn, if you so wish, how Leyland controls quality. And there is more.

If you fancy the Design Council is trying to do too much, spreading the budget too thin, blame the brief.

Council's activity is vast in scope

By all practicable means

How effective has it all been? On this anniversary and when, by coincidence, a new director is about to take office, the question is timely.

More than half a million people visited the Design Centre last year. A university chair in design management has been established (the world's first) at the Royal College of Art, and London is now seen, by those who know, as the design capital of Europe.

The achievement is great. But is it complete? To answer that, go into almost any factory or department store. In neither do people enjoy a fraction of the quality, comfort, convenience, taste or harmony which modern technology, shaped by design, can offer.

The Design Council's task has scarcely begun. This year marks a new beginning. Should the council continue or alter its work?

Understanding low in high places

In so far as it influences government it must accelerate its efforts. Although the state spends more than half the money earned in the country, understanding in public places of design is negligible. We have all seen grants go to factories up and down the land regardless of what they make.

More than £20m is being spent to re-equip the textile industry. The looms could be weaving crossword puzzles for all the thought given to design in this decision. The result may be forecast. Without design interest, more than simply increases the capacity to make things people have proved they do not want; which is the main reason why firms fail in the first place.

Over many years the Design Council has tried hard to persuade government departments, but it is in a difficult position. While it must take on whatever colouring is needed to influence our civil servants (and that is why charges one hears that the Design Council is bureaucratic, political, unadventurous, and cautious should be put in perspective) it should also inspire and lead.

To stand up for what is new and bold while either through the labyrinth of Whitehall which, at best, only bear echoes of industry as it was a while ago, seems impossible. As far as the council has achieved both it is to be admired.

In praise, we may note that despite the all-drowning sea of nostalgia and preference for the past that fills our life, the Design Centre consistently provides a glimpse of modern Britain, as refreshing as it is unusual. 1976.

The Design Council must look two ways, because it needs the understanding and acceptance of industry, whose point of view, knowledge and needs are quite different from those of Government.

Mr Keith Grant, the council's director-designate, has seized that point. Disappointed that there are so few people with design awareness in decision-making positions, he has said "the Design Council should intensify its efforts to provide the help and advice manufacturers truly need". Why? Because, he argues, "the constant improvement of design, particularly in the export field is vitally necessary to Britain's economic recovery".

That may mean the Design Council's own appreciation of design will change. Middle-class motives remain powerful. Unless we are careful good design, like clean socks, will continue to be seen as an end in itself, all the more satisfying when there is a popular social context.

Indeed, there may be such a predilection for imposing the answer of "good design" that we neglect the proper questions. And in this changing world if we do not get the questions right neither will the design be, however elegant.

But this is not so easy. Today industry divides crisply into those few companies that understand the modern world (and progress accordingly) and the majority that do not (and will surely be overtaken). The Design Council will obviously want to identify the thinking of one to apply to the other.

If one word pinpoints the difference it is surely marketing, but in my interviews for this article I did not hear it mentioned. Perhaps it still attracts, to some ears, of the specious and unreal; others, misguidedly, may see marketing as the extreme opposite of sound engineering, the world the Design Council is striving to accommodate. So there is another dichotomy.

To be muscular the Design Council will not want to live by patronage but by its relevance to the needs of good life and good business. If there were to be another focus in the phase of the council's life could it be this: to build a new understanding of design not as a way of creating beauty in a world that could do with more, but as an inspiring and practical part of marketing which builds prosperity by putting the customer first; even before the factory, the engineer, the Bauhaus?

The author is chairman, Allied International Designers. Talk about design, (Barrie & Jenkins, £6.00), the latest of several books which he has written on the subject, was published in 1976.

It must look good and work well

by Kenneth Owen

Belatedly, there are signs of official recognition that design is important to national industrial performance. Belatedly, people are objecting to the "dude-style" consumption products that contribute only to meeting contrived needs. Belatedly, designers are learning how to be less prodigal with materials, energy and other resources.

These changes in attitudes and constraints are affecting investment in design at various levels. For governments, manufacturers and individuals, they are posing new questions of what should be designed, and how those designs should be carried out.

Design is basic to our industrial performance and we had better get it right. There are indications that British designers are good but that their efforts are not being harnessed as effectively as they might be.

It should not really be

necessary in 1977 to emphasize that design is not just a cosmetic exercise; that designers are not merely pastrycooks who simply add the icing to the cake.

The person who buys a product is entitled to expect that it will do what it should do, safely and reliably and for an appropriate length of time. It should look good, be as simple as possible to maintain and, if it is a machine, its ergonomics should be right—that is, it should in the widest sense fit the person using it. It should not depend upon technical or visual gimmickry.

On the other side of the fence, the manufacturer wants a product that can be produced in appropriate numbers at a reasonable cost. Its production must be economical in materials and energy, and as much as possible of its material content should be capable of being recycled for further use. Above all, he wants a product that will sell successfully on the market.

The designer is the man or woman who tries to satisfy all these requirements. In most cases, it is not an individual, but a team that is responsible for

the design of a product, with various specialists covering a spectrum of design skills. Compared with some other countries, it has been suggested, good individual British designers are less good at working together in teams.

Thus the design defines the product and, essentially, determines its success in the marketplace. Other factors clearly can affect market success or failure, particularly in a negative way, but there is a direct relationship between sound design and market success. And, conversely, market success is the criterion by which design effectiveness is judged.

This, says Lord Caldecote, chairman of Delta Metal and chairman of the Design Council since 1972, is the basic reason for the importance of design to the national economy. For the country as for individual companies, improved economic performance depends on improved effectiveness in design.

The British Government's conversion to this view (though presented as a long-established article of faith) was detailed recently by the Prime Minister. Addressing

the Society of Industrial Artists and Designers, Mr Callaghan said: "Unless the design of British products is right, we will never compete successfully either at home or abroad with the foreign competition."

There must therefore be increased emphasis on good design if we are going to regenerate British industry and stop the relative decline in our industrial performance which has lasted for over 30 years. That is the way to restore prosperity to this country.

In veering on industrial strategy, Mr Callaghan said, the Government had become increasingly conscious of the importance of industrial design. Some 40 working parties, with representatives from management, unions and government, had been established.

"As part of the Government's contribution to the industrial strategy, we have made a substantial sum of money through the industry schemes and many of these have significant product development sectors."

"A considerable proportion of the £75m allocated to machine tools, textile machinery, printing machinery and electronic components is already available for product design."

"But we are not satisfied with this and are now actively considering a wider scheme for expanding support for new product design and development over a much wider area of manufacturing industry."

One arm of the Government's industrial strategy is that provided by the National Enterprise Board, which invests in selected companies in various sectors of industry. Lord Ryder, NEB chairman, recently added his thoughts on the significance of design.

"Good design is of key importance to the success of British industry, and therefore to the long-term economic performance of the nation", he said, "because in the final analysis design is the critical factor that determines whether our customers at home and abroad will choose to buy British goods."

"All those elements in a product which will make it more competitive in world markets are largely determined by designers—their concept, performance, safety in use, appearance, price and, not least, whether or not it can be produced efficiently and thus contribute to better productivity."

Britain made many excellent products, Lord Ryder said, but we did not produce enough of them and in some cases we did not make them fast enough. Our productivity was still too low, which was one of the reasons why we needed to step up our investment in new plant and equipment.

But faster and more efficient production would not regenerate British industry if it were not accompanied by investment to ensure the highest standards of design.

Ensuring the highest standards of design on a national scale is the aim of the Design Council, which in recent years has paid increasing attention to engineering design. Previously, its main

thrust had concerned industrial design in the sense that the educational ladder for industrial designers has been more clearly defined than for engineering designers; there is a need to bring the two sides more closely together.

Lord Caldecote emphasizes that design covers a wide spectrum of activities, with aesthetics and ergonomics merging into the many other elements which together determine the performance of the product.

Industry has to be more efficient in design today simply because the marketplace is more competitive than it was only a few years ago. Previously a company could afford a few losers among its attempted new products; now there is much less room for error.

Most useless thing in the world

The penalty for failure is high, Lord Caldecote notes. A failed design and development programme is "the most useless thing in the world" because one is left with nothing at the end.

"If you buy the wrong machine tool you can at least sell it secondhand to somebody. But if you spend a million pounds on a design and development programme and you have misjudged the market, or the development goes wrong, you've got nothing."

This is why, as the Prime Minister remarked, investment in new products is of tremendous importance in our view in the Design Council, says Lord Caldecote, "it is of more importance, usually, than investment in new plant."

Investment in new products is a major specification and the design brief (the initial instructions to the designer) are right—will create employment, Lord Caldecote explains, as the new products generate new sales at home and abroad.

Nine times out of ten, by contrast, investment in new plant means less employment, since the capital investment will have been justified on the basis of producing the same output with fewer people.

Further, new product designs often lead to orders for new manufacturing equipment, since the design process will have included evaluating the latest methods of production in order to make the product in the most efficient way.

But it is much more difficult to raise money for investment in new products than it is for new plant, since banks are reluctant to advance money without security.

Investment in new products is risk money and, though Mr Callaghan's promise of expanding government support for new product design is welcome, Lord Caldecote is a forceful advocate of letting companies retain enough profits to be able to risk their own money in backing their own new-product judgment.

Achieving the right balance of design skills in the people who will design and develop the new

products will be difficult also. Traditionally the educational ladder for industrial designers has been more clearly defined than for engineering designers; there is a need to bring the two sides more closely together.

A proposed joint MSc course involving both Imperial College of Science and Technology and the Royal College of Art is one of several moves in this direction.

Among the many requirements for success in design, Lord Caldecote includes an innovative approach to new products (attitudes vary enormously between different industries and companies); the ability of specialists to work well together and for the overall design process to be well managed; and a recognition by the chief executive of the company of the corporate importance of design.

Teamwork that enables specialists to merge their efforts in a multidisciplinary approach is of paramount importance. This has always been true for complex products; now the designers are faced with an increasing number of constraints.

Some of these were discussed at a recent London conference organized by the Institution of Engineering Designers. They include economy in the use of materials and energy, economy in use, better (and defined) maintainability, and the reuse of materials through recycling.

Design for planned obsolescence, one speaker suggested, was no longer a valid concept. Overall, designers needed to be aware of factors other than technology—they needed a "socio-economic brief" as well as a technical specification.

The Design Council is aware that Britain has major design resources which, in general, are grossly underused. As in other areas, the design skills of some British individuals and organizations are best recognized overseas: at PA Management Consultants Technology and Science Centre near Cambridge, for example, about 90 per cent of the centre's work, almost entirely new product design and development, is for overseas clients.

Under the auspices of the National Economic Development Office, most of the working groups examining strategy for various sectors of industry have concluded, as Mr Callaghan noted, that good design is good for their particular industries. Now the key question is how to move from these sectoral conclusions to a national improvement in design.

The Design Council is now discussing with NEDO ways in which the design and development of new products can be strengthened in the context of national economic industrial planning. Among the suggestions being considered is a design audit scheme under which the council might assess and monitor the design ability and performance of any company seeking or receiving financial support from the Government.

The author is Technology Correspondent, The Times.

A tradition of fine design

Josiah Wedgwood created Queen's Ware in 1765 and changed the history of tableware in doing so. His designs had a sophistication which wouldn't be out of keeping in 1977—and a durability unheard of at the time.

In 1767 he designed a simple, elegant coffee cup and saucer in Black Basalt which you can see in the Design Centre today.

During its long history, Wedgwood has collaborated with the leading artists of the day—from George Stubbs and John Flaxman in the 18th Century to Susie Cooper, RDI, Richard Guyatt, FSAI,

Eduardo Paolozzi and David Gentleman, RDI, today.

Wedgwood was an original supporter of the Council and was, in fact, the first ceramic company ever to win a coveted Design Award. Some of the Wedgwood products currently on the Design Index are shown here.

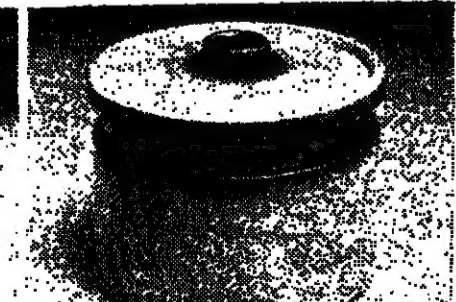
Evidence of the Wedgwood view that, although Time may affect fashion, good design is timeless.

Wedgwood

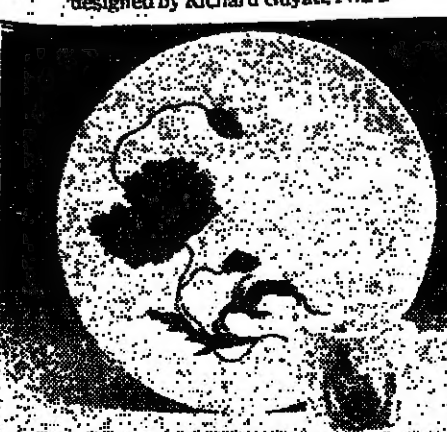
Barlston, Stoke-on-Trent



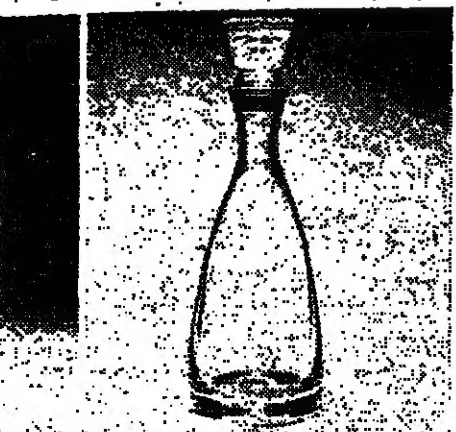
Silver Jubilee Mug in Queen's Ware, designed by Richard Guyatt, FSAI.



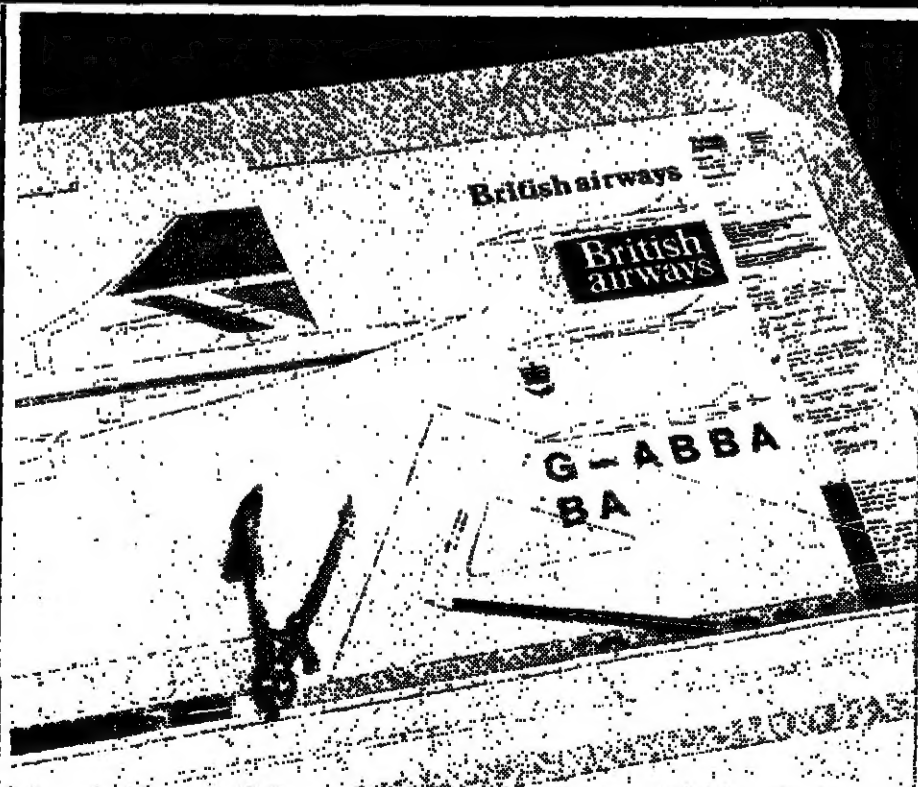
Blue Pacific Oven-to-tableware Casserole.



Pink Bone China Plate in Corn Poppy design, Peter Rabbit Mugs, Ware Mug.



December hand-made Wedgwood glass.



British Airways take good design a long way.

All over the world, in so many very different ways, British Airways flies the flag for British design.

From aircraft to baggage tags; from booking offices to catering equipment; from stationery to uniforms, British Airways lives, very visibly, as one of the world's leading international airlines.

British Airways. Showing what good design is about. In all the right places.

British
airways

We'll take more care of you.

Europe's Car of the Year is fitted with the safest windscreen we've ever made.

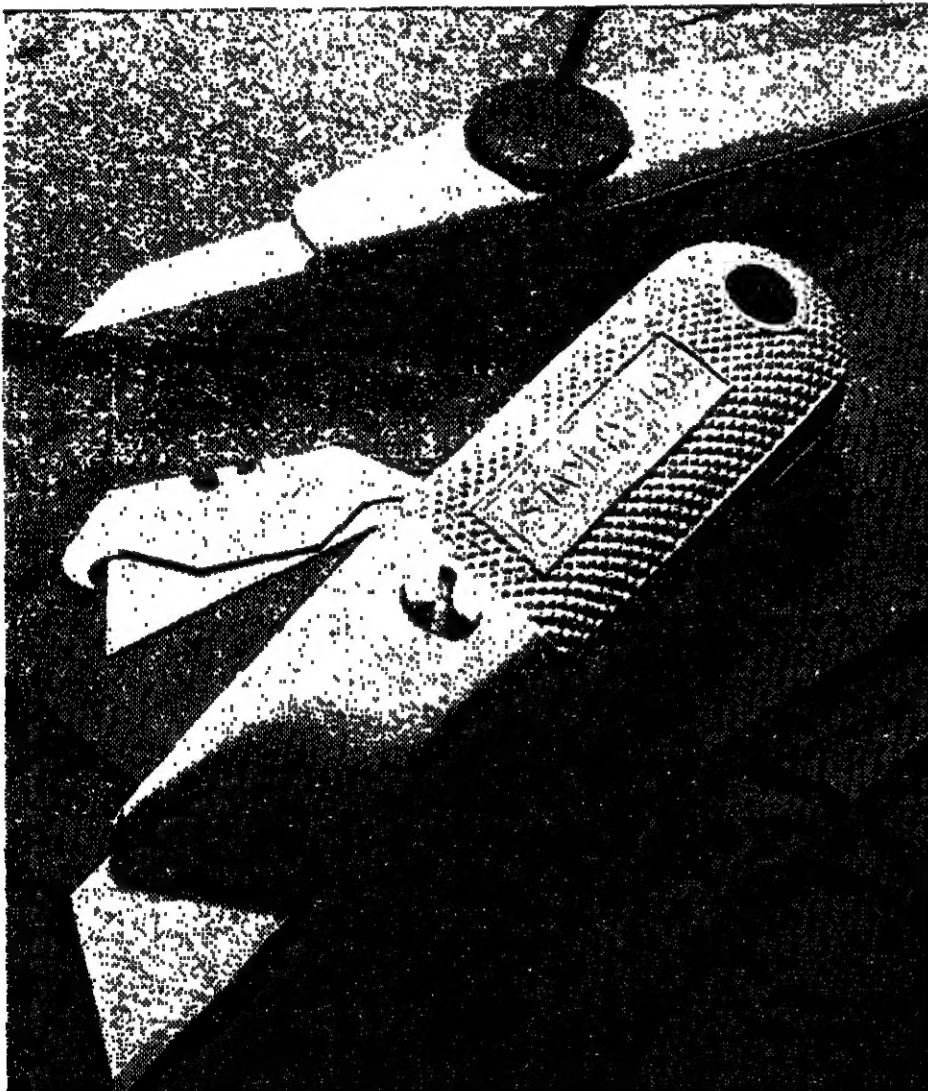
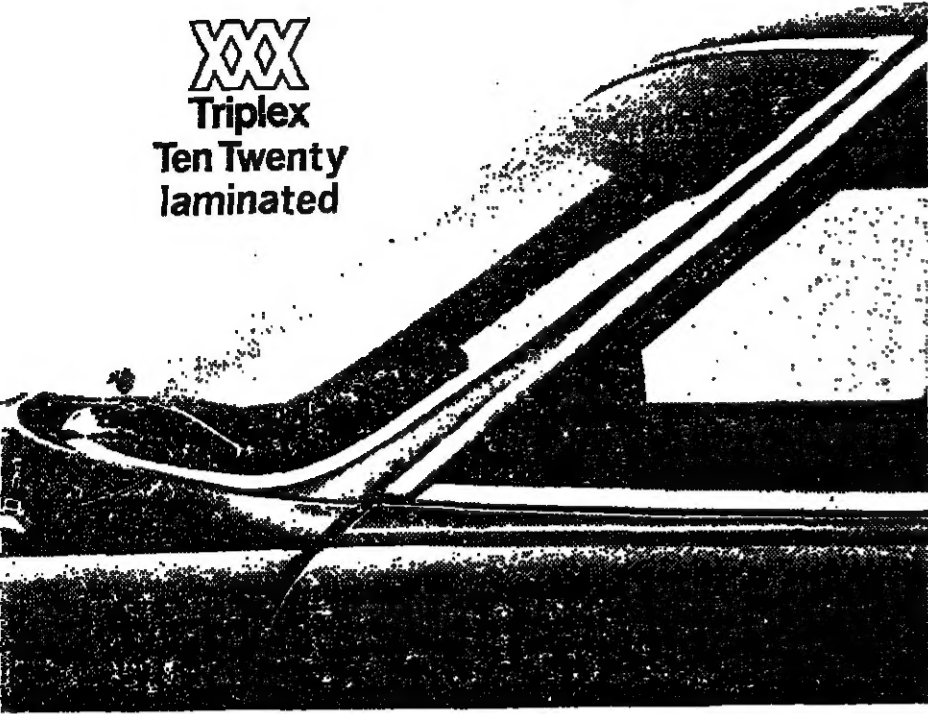
And that's no accident.

The new Rover 3500 from Leyland Cars has been voted 1977's Car of the Year by a panel of 49 experts from 15 countries.

One possible reason is that the new Rover is currently the only volume production car to carry a Triplex Ten Twenty safety laminated windscreen as standard specification. Ten Twenty virtually eliminates severe cuts to the face and severe injuries to the eyes in the event of head contact with the screen in an accident.

Europe's Car of the Year is first with Ten Twenty - others will follow in 1977.

XX
Triplex
Ten Twenty
laminated



IT'S WITH TOOLS LIKE THESE
THAT WE CARVED OUR REPUTATION
FOR GREAT DESIGN.

STANLEY

Over 100 Stanley Tools in Design Centre Index.

Distinctive Design for Distinguished Service

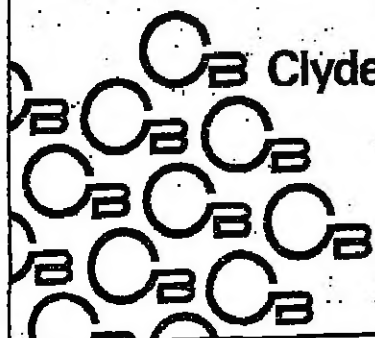
Progressive management knows the value of good design. Clydesdale Bank, the first Bank in Britain to introduce a corporate identity programme, achieved international acclaim by winning the Royal Society of Arts award for Design Management in 1967.

As a partner in pioneering the use of design for the future the Clydesdale Bank adds its congratulations to the Design Centre on its 21st Anniversary.

Clydesdale Bank Limited
Head Office, 30 St Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2HL

Chief London Office, 30 Lombard Street

Clydesdale Bank Limited



Sir Paul Reilly (left in the picture), director of the Design Council since 1960, will hand over next June to Mr Keith Grant, secretary of the Royal Society of Arts (right): profiles by José Manser, picture by Robin Laurance

Amiable and avuncular politician

Sir Paul Reilly has been fortunate enough to spend most of his life doing a job he finds so interesting it hardly seems like work. Son of Professor Sir Charles Reilly, the architect, his interest in design and architecture was already firmly established by the time he went up to Oxford to read politics, philosophy and economics in 1930, but despite—or perhaps because of—his respect for his father he never considered becoming a practitioner of either profession.

Instead, after a course in business administration at the London School of Economics, a short period in industry with a plywood manufacturer, culminating in a stint as a salesman (an experience he claims to have found invaluable) and one or two entrepreneurial ventures, he opted in 1935 for journalism.

The *News Chronicle*, under its editor Gerald Barry, was a newspaper which showed an enlightened interest in what we now call "the environment". What better niche for him? He progressed from assistant leader page editor to features editor, taking the work of architecture and design correspondent in his eager stride and would, he says, certainly have returned to the newspaper after war service had not the shortage of newspaper editors, and any possibility of feature pages for some time to come.

He was sent to the United States to study the plastics industry so he could start up a plastics magazine for a British publisher. He asked his employers for a Christmas trip home aboard a Cunarder, first class, and he found himself seated next to Sir Gordon Russell in the dining saloon—confirming the widely-held belief that, for business reasons, it is sensible to travel first class.

Some months later Sir Gordon invited him to become chief information officer at the new Council of Industrial Design. He joined the CoID in April 1948, and the pattern of life's work and interest was set.

Sir Paul is a gregarious and articulate man who has thrown all his considerable energies into fighting for the cause of good design which he holds dear. He declined the political career his father would have liked for him. Nevertheless, in the non-party sense, he is an accomplished and professional politician who in his amiable and avuncular way has kept the Design Council, as it is now called, on a steady (though not always easy) path from the time he became director in 1960.

He has played the right cards, lobbied the right people and travelled the world in the furtherance of his beliefs. Design for him encompasses everything from crafts to heavy engineering products. He was not only an early advocate of the setting up of a council for engineering design, but also fought rigorously for that council to become part of the existing CoID

rather than a separate entity.

Figures in industry, government and design from all over the world know and respect Sir Paul. He has promoted British design, given endless words of advice on the setting up of foreign design centres, and spoken at innumerable functions—"the one thing I've hated. When I first spoke at the Oxford Union I dried up completely, and I'm still in agony at the prospect of making a speech after all these years", he says.

For the future, he has been invited to write two books; he is to be design adviser to the chairman of one of Britain's largest manufacturing companies and to be on the board of a design group. He is also a Royal Fine Arts Commissioner, is on the Council of the Royal College of Art—and much else besides. "As long as I can work, and afford to keep my home within walking distance of the Victoria and Albert Museum I shall be happy."

Tough, healthy streak of ambition

When Keith Grant left Cambridge in 1958 with a degree in modern languages, he wanted to be an export salesman. His enthusiasm was thwarted. Several large manufacturing companies offered jobs but none would guarantee eventual transfer to the export side. He went into advertising instead and became an account executive at Crawfords where, under the influence of its creative director, Ashley Havinden,

his eyes were first opened to the importance of design.

Five years later, at 28, he became general manager of the Royal Opera Company and the English Opera Group, a job which engaged all his tact and patience, as well as his love of the theatre and music and which, because he was commissioned and worked with theatre designers, strengthened his design awareness. The years in the opera world brought contact with many people and much travel, and during this time Mr Grant married a South African, Deanne Bergman, a principal dancer with the Royal Ballet.

With his fortieth birthday looming, Mr Grant, whose charm, humour and lack of cynicism do not conceal a tough and healthy streak of ambition, felt the need to move "before I got irrevocably stuck in this one job for life". Appointed secretary of the Royal Society of Arts, he assumed himself settled for years. He much enjoyed organizing and hosting its many functions, running the bursaries scheme which is such a growing link between industry and the design schools, initiating schemes for employing endowments and acting as impresario (his word) for other people's ideas as well as his own.

He was thrown off course only momentarily when, after three years, he was invited to apply for the post of director of the Design Council. The RSA links with the Design Council were close and historic, and it was one job whose broad scope was exciting enough to tempt him.

The council needed someone with contacts in industry, education and the arts, someone with administrative experience and an agreeable personality.

Advisory service finds the right experts

by Kenneth Owen

"It is curious that sub-contracting manufacture has the aura of astute business practice, but sub-contracting design sounds vaguely disreputable." This point was made two years ago by Mr Geoffrey Constable, head of engineering design at the Design Council, discussing the council's then newly formed engineering field officer service.

Two years later, disreputable or not, the sub-contracting of design has become more accepted as a way of industrial life. Some of the credit for this must go to the council's field officers, whose efforts are focused in a formal Design Advisory Service for which companies pay a basic £100 a year.

When the council began to develop its engineering design services, as an addition to its already well-established services in industrial design, Mr Constable detected a recurring pattern in which outside assistance was appropriate.

First, a new technology (where the client's comment might be: "But my designers said they had the necessary experience").

Second, the second opinion ("The predictions of my design team are usually right, but this time we cannot afford to be wrong").

Third, the disaster ("We have installed 1,000 machines overseas and none of them works properly").

Fourth, rapid expansion ("We have got to get into the market while it is there").

In each case the use of outside skill or sub-contracted design effort could help, provided the companies concerned had honestly identified their problems and knew where to go for help.

This was the starting point

for the council's effort to improve the standard of engineering design in industry—help companies to identify their real problems (which are not always the apparent ones) and to suggest sources of skill which could be tapped to assist in their solution. As well as the more dramatic examples quoted, there are the more routine snags of everyday product development.

The regionally based field officers are concerned with diagnosing company problems and recommending appropriate specialists. Normally they would not offer professional advice themselves, unless the problem lay in their own area of knowledge.

One of the resources to which they have access is the council's Record of Engineering Design Expertise. This is a list, maintained at the council's headquarters in London, of available sources of knowledge—universities, polytechnics, research associations, research establishments, practising consultants (including recently retired design engineers) and companies.

More than 70 subject areas are covered in the record, extending from acoustics to welding, and including aerodynamics, chemical engineering, corrosion, energy conversion, fluidics, heat transfer, mechanical handling, structural engineering and microprocessor applications.

During 1975, the last full year in which the service operated on its free, informal basis, the field officers visited more than 900 companies. Over 300 requested design assistance, and almost 400 experts or sources of knowledge were recommended. About 200 companies went on to apply the advice offered.

The fact that only a third of the companies contacted requested assistance, Mr Constable says, indicates the continued reluctance of engineering designers to con-

sider using outside experience. That the number of recommended sources was greater than the number of problems, he adds, confirms that sources of appropriate knowledge are not difficult to locate. Experience has shown that there are few engineering problems that require (fundamental research), he says.

Last September the council announced a new subscription-based version of its design advisory service. For an annual fee of £100, and value-added tax, companies are entitled to a range of services which includes visits by field officers, access to the council's records of engineering technology and industrial design knowledge, design scrutinies of products (critical appraisals by a team of experts) at cost, and extended searches for sources of components.

Non-member companies can pay on an ad hoc basis for these services. Typically, these charges would be £50 and VAT for diagnosis and referral of a design problem; £20 and VAT for a straightforward recommendation of sources of knowledge; and one and £100 for a design scrutiny.

With its present staff resources the Design Council could handle about 200 member companies in its design advisory service. In just over six months since the scheme was launched, more than 80 firms have joined. In size and products they represent a fair cross-section of British industry: they include Bursdey Electronics, Cadbury Typhoo, Chubb Fire Security, Crossfield Electronics, ICI Mond Division, Nuclear Enterprises, Pimey Bowes and Veeder-Root.

Many well-known large corporations, as well as many small firms, have already benefited from the advisory service. "We are not about to transform industry," Geoffrey Constable says. "But it is setting a trend."



Most important, they

needed someone whose experience and temperament ensured he would instinctively give engineering and industrial design equal weight and importance, for a bias in either direction could destroy the delicate equilibrium which had been so carefully nurtured. Mr Grant fulfilled all these needs; he

was persuaded to apply and got the job.

Until he has taken over he is redoubt about future plans except to point out that his youthful passion for selling overseas is undiminished. The design of goods, from heavy industrial machinery to saucepans, is vital and he believes that British specifications, based on home requirements are often too low.

By unremitting fieldwork the Design Council strives to raise standards, and he aims to accelerate the pace. His first months in the job will be spent in strengthening and expanding his personal links with industrial companies.

"It will be difficult to replace Sir Paul Reilly, but Keith Grant looks a likely candidate to succeed."



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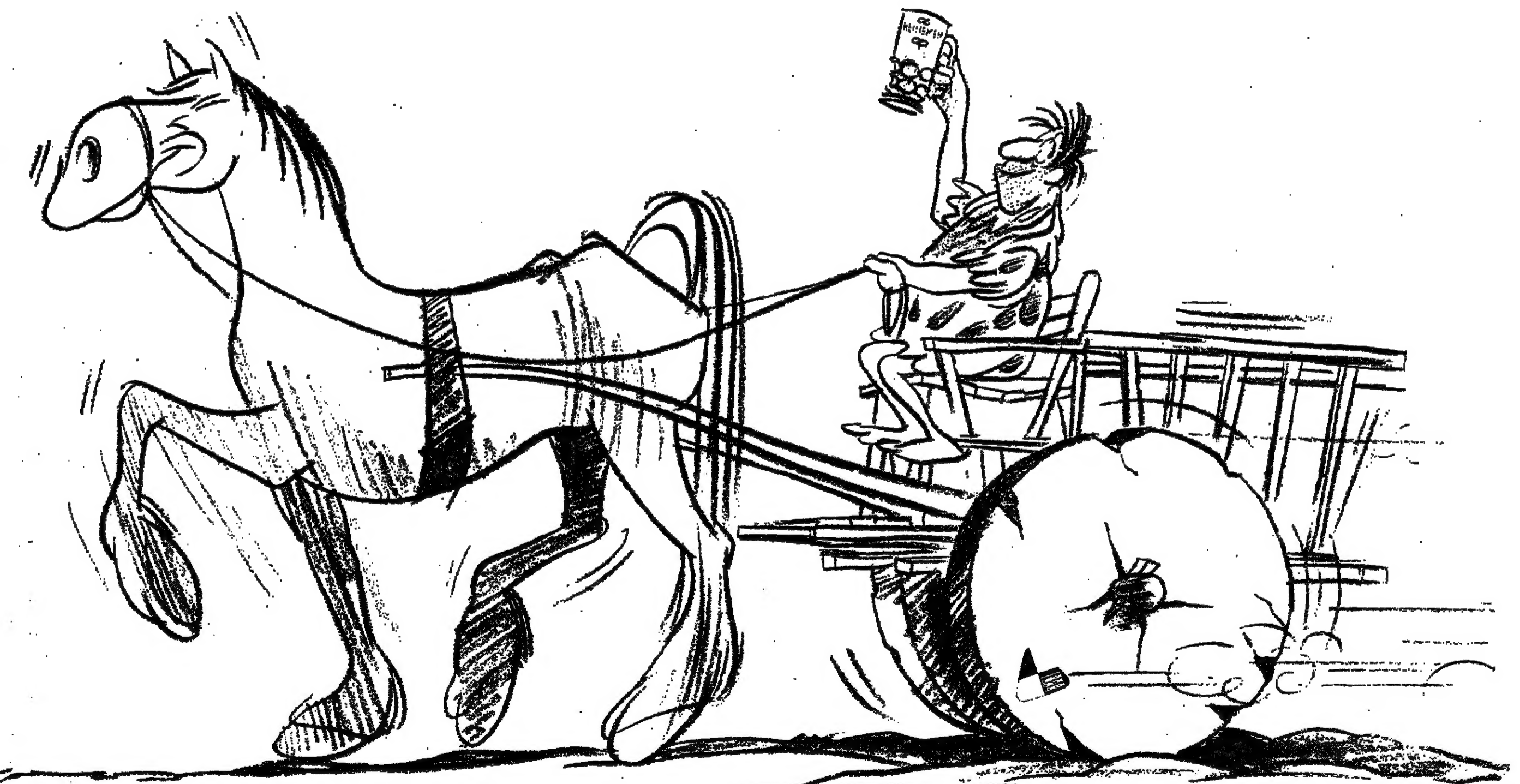
Ghana, Venice, Banking, Timber, Conferences, Buses, Milan, Pensions, Burnley, Bond Street, Quebec, Senegal, Health, Aluminium, Brazil, Scotland, Nigeria, Swimming Pools, Thanet, Films, Water Resources, Bloodstock, Travel, Posidonia, Antiques, Mexico, World Population, Paris, Coffee, Hong Kong, Invisibles, Gold, Air Conditioning, Oman, World Wildlife, Sugar, Tunisia, Watches, Oil, Maryland, Cocoa, France, Gibraltar, Commercial Vehicles, Thamesdown, Property, Beirut, Sweden, New Covent Garden, Christmas Books, Sheffield, China, Morocco, Farnborough, Bahrain, Brighton, Cowes Week, Singapore, Summer Drinking, Human Rights, Energy, Credit, Bolton, India, Calculators, Rushmoor, Venezuela, West Norfolk, Radio, Cars, Estate Management, Malta, Insurance, Word Processing, Madrid, Japan, Finland, Copper, Algeria, Wall St, Industrial Heating, Iran, Aerospace Electronics, Derbyshire.

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History teaches value of awareness

by Clive Ashwin

There are two principal routes to qualifying as a professional designer in Britain today. The first is to follow one of the many courses in industrial design run by colleges of art and design and by design departments in polytechnics. The generic term industrial design denotes professional activities which are concerned with shaping and decorating products made for the private consumer, such as textiles, graphics, furniture and domestic ceramics.

The second route to professional qualification is a course in one of the branches of engineering design, such as civil, aeronautical or electrical engineering, or one of the university or polytechnic departments. While the industrial designer is predominantly concerned with developing known technologies in a functionally efficient and aesthetically attractive manner, the engineering designer is more likely to be looking for technological innovations which will yield greater efficiency and increased economy.

This definition is a simplistic one but when one turns to the institutional structure responsible for educating designers it is remark-

able to what a high degree the ideological dichotomy is reflected in a rigid segregation of courses.

When, in 1837, Parliament made a grant for the foundation of a school of design in London, industrial design became the first subject in the history of British education to attract specific funding.

The founding fathers of the system felt more confident about our international lead in heavy engineering, such as railways, shipping and factory machinery, than they did about our competence in consumer design.

In those early days, great emphasis was laid upon the design of textiles (critically vulnerable to foreign competition), ceramics and furnishings. Since that time industrial design has remained embedded firmly within the state-funded public sector of education and, with few notable exceptions, hardly penetrated the universities.

Engineering design, on the other hand, is dominated by the universities, with Imperial College, Bath and Loughborough coming high in the order of prestige. The nearest thing to a union between the two spheres of design activity occurs in the polytechnics, which often embrace both areas although, regrettably, normally in separate faculties.

The historic segregation of industrial from engineering design has been seen as one of the most pernicious features of British education, parodied as breeding on the one hand innumerate and illiterate aesthetes in pursuit of "taste" and, on the other, hard-headed experts with no imagination to predict or control the often catastrophic consequences of their misplaced ingenuity.

The GLC's recent turn-about on tower blocks, the Government's reversal of New Town policy and the fierce resistance to nuclear power schemes all serve to reinforce the popular view of a discredited generation of designers and architects.

At the end of the war industrial design education was given a new look, a new qualification—the National Diploma in Design—and a new course structure based on the contributory disciplines of fine art and craft.

The Coldstream report of 1960 proposed among other things the elevation of the diploma in art and design to a degree-status diploma (the diploma in art and design) and its proposals were put into effect during the early 1960s.

Coldstream also gave courses a much higher degree of autonomy, seized by a number of design educationists as a golden opportunity to escape the historic and detested tutelage of fine art. On some of these courses (recently converted to BA degrees of the Council for National Academic Awards) the fine art element prescribed by Coldstream has dwindled to a mere genuflection, or disappeared altogether.

Craft suffered a similar fate. If, it was asked, the professional designer spends most of his time designing for machine production, what is the virtue in cultivating the manual dexterity demanded by crafts? The situation varies from subject to subject, but one must not be surprised to find a degree level course in graphic design in which the students are required to do little drawing, no fine art and no autographic print-making.

The danger of such a regime and the philosophy behind it is that the designer is prone to degenerate into an ideas man whose personal skills extend no further than photomontage and adhesive lettering, and who is increasingly dependent upon the hands of others to realise his intentions for him.

Indeed, recent sporadic attempts to breed a species of so-called "design technician"—a rude mechanic of the design process—are evidence of a tendency to pernicious elitism in the chain of command. Nowhere are the consequences of this policy more clearly demonstrated than in the previous decline in the quality of drawing since the early 1960s.

If there is one truth to be distilled from the history of design, it is that good design has never prospered except under the direction of designers who understood the full sensory consequences of their products—how they will look, feel, sound, smell and taste to the consumer.

This kind of awareness (which was incidentally, the original definition of "aesthetic" judgment) cannot be bought cheaply, and is only acquired at all by direct and continuing interaction with physical materials, traditionally achieved in the practice of crafts and fine art.

The waning of crafts during the 1960s left an ideological vacuum which was partly filled by the notion of problem-solving. According to the problem-solving ethos the designer was a kind of socio-industrial physician who, with a few well-chosen questions, a flow chart and a slide rule could prove that his solution was the best available.

One must not overlook the real benefits of the vogue for problem-solving, a term

which many already find a trifle passé and embarrassing. It made industrial designers measure, calculate and experiment rather than depending upon the revamping of historical precedents. But it also led to the ultimate folly of attempting to elevate design to a perfect science.

In his enthusiasm to prove that one design solution was better than another, the industrial designer dashed from the arms of the artist and craftsman to those of the social scientist and mathematician. Certainly, there are many factors in the evaluation of a design which can be quantified, particularly with regard to economic and functional criteria.

But, alas, human beings

are all too often perverse enough to prefer an expensive solution to a cheap one, and an unwieldy product to a convenient one. Why? Because in a society which has satisfied the basic requirements of sustenance and shelter consumers increasingly demand aesthetic and spiritual fulfilment from artefacts, which thereby become a species of quasi-art object in which considerations of utility play only a part.

Variants of the problem-solving doctrine have been welcomed and cultivated with enthusiasm by many institutions, including the Royal College of Art, which enjoys a virtual (and questionable) state-funded monopoly of advanced industrial design education.

The Royal College, it of art and design, but one should be remembered, has a skeleton in its cupboard. During the 1930s it defined go far from its intended function of advanced design education that it became little more than a school of fine art combined with a teacher training centre. The Hambleden Report of 1936 actively considered transferring the design laurels, together with the funds, to the LCC's dynamic Central School.

In the event, the Royal College was let off with a bad scare and given time to put its house in order, a task which it achieved under the able direction of the late Sir Robin Darwin who became its head in 1948. The fine before young designers art epidemic was similarly begin to look azzin in contained in other colleges earnest.

Members of the judging panels were as follows

Consumer and contract goods

Geoffrey Dunn, formerly chairman, Dunn's of Bromley (chairman)

Rosemary McRobert, director, Retail Trading Standards Association

Robert Heritage, industrial design consultant

David Gentlemen, graphic designer

John Shave, technical director, Dreamland Appliances

Peter Wood, lecturer in ergonomics, University of Surrey

Engineering products

R. J. Clayton, technical director, Hirst Research Centre, General Electric Company (chairman)

Professor M. Alexander, department of mechanical engineering, Imperial College of Science and Technology

Dr B. C. Lindley, managing director, Electrical Research Association

N. London, partner, London and Upjohn, industrial design consultants

D. C. Thomas, superintending engineering inspector of factories, HM Factory Inspectorate

R. L. Torrance, engineering director, Stothert & Pitt

Engineering components

Professor J. Black, head of school of engineering, University of Bath (chairman)

S. Bergen, technical director, Pye Unicam

J. N. Butler, partner, BIS Design Consultants

A. J. Eglington, director of engineering and nuclear physics, Science Research Council

A. Dewhurst, chairman, Dewhurst & Partner

J. G. Keenan, technical director, dynamics, Dowty Rotor

British motor vehicle industry

Raymond Baxter, Tomorrow's World, BBC Television (chairman)

Gerald Broadbent, joint managing director, Bosloy

Stanley Gillen, recently retired chairman and chief executive, Ford of Europe

Kenneth Grange, industrial design consultant, Pentagram Design Partnership

Judith Jackson, motoring correspondent, The Sunday Times

Marcus Jacobson, chief engineer, Automobile Association

There will be an exhibition of the award-winning products in all four categories at the Design Centre, Haymarket, London, from May 30 to June 25. The consumer and contract goods will be shown simultaneously at the Design Centre, St Vincent Street, Glasgow; and the other three categories will be exhibited there from August 1 to September 10.

Design Awards 1977: the products, the companies, the judges

PRODUCT

Consumer and contract goods

Sinclair Sovereign calculator

Black cutlery

Concept tableware

Countdown clock (CD1)

Format range of architectural ironmongery

Topper sailing dinghy

Tubetrack 7 display lighting

Airfield lighting range

Engineering components

Mandrive linear transporter

The Nibbler concrete crusher

P3000 and P4000 high performance gear pumps

TR cable reel

Presco and SGB Presslok range of scaffolding fittings

Engineering products

Lancer Boss 300 and 700 series sidelif trucks

725CM truck-mounted hydraulic telescoping crane

Auto Sprint series 3 lathes

2803/2804 computer system

Trident range and Bankers

Treasury range safes

Series 320 multi pen 250mm

Industrial indicator recorder

Model 580 ratio recording

Infrared spectrophotometer

British motor vehicle industry

Rosette car wheel safety device

Delugrip road surfacing material

Diaphragm spring "turnover" clutch

Joloda fork-lift mechanical roller conveyor

Easysheet removable cover for open-topped commercial vehicles

Commendation

Car conversion for disabled drivers

COMPANY

Sinclair Radionics

David Mellor

Homesa Pottery Co

The House of Carmen

James Gibbons

J. V. Dunhill Boats

Concord Lighting International

Thorn Lighting

The Marine Engineering Co

Hymac

Dowty Hydraulic Units

Metropolitan Tool & Products

Press Components Co

Lancer Boss

Coamos Crane Co (formerly Crown Cranes)

EMI-MEC

International Computers

Chubb & Son's Lock & Safe Co

Chesell

Perkin-Elmer

Rubery Owen (Darlaston) Dunlop

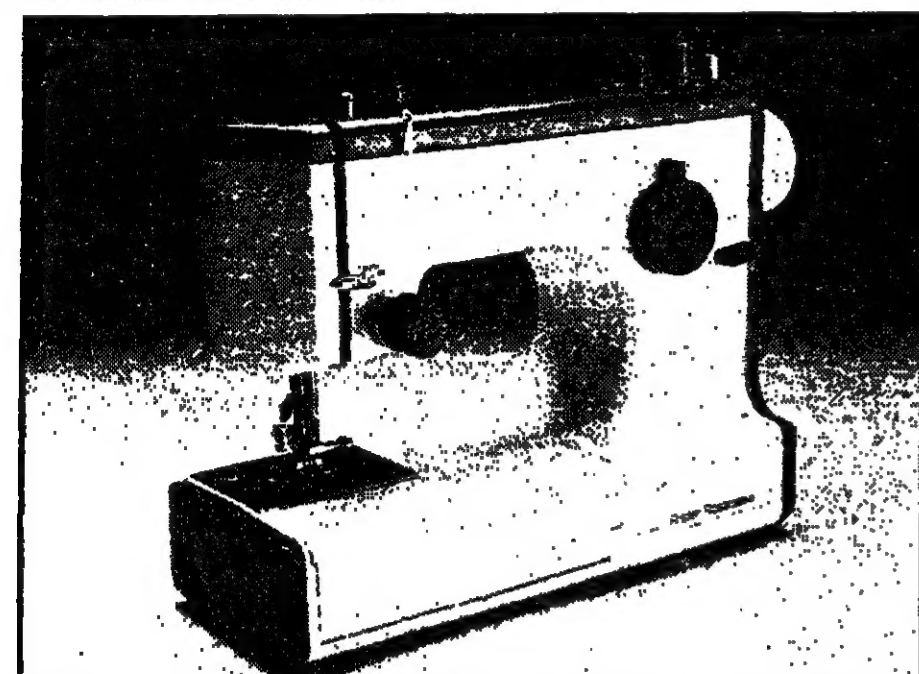
Automotive Products

Joloda Transport Equipment

George Neville Truck Equipment

Toby Churchill

Awards in the medical equipment category will be announced on May 6.



Small and successful: both of these products—not among this year's award winners—were designed in Britain for overseas manufacturers. The compact sewing machine, launched in 1971, was designed by Kenneth Grange of Pentagram for a Japanese company, and now sells around the world, notably in the United States, Canada and Britain. The two-kilogram washing machine was designed by Allied International Designers for a Belgian company in 1972. It sells for about £32, chiefly in Benelux and Germany.

The first agricultural machine to win a Design Council Award.

MF of course.

The Massey-Ferguson MF30 Seed and Fertiliser Drill has already earned the approval of over 10,000 British farmers, making it far and away the most popular in the country.

However, one of the most rewarding accolades we could possibly have received is the Design Council Award—the first time any agricultural machine has ever won this coveted prize.

The MF30 Drill, which is available in a variety of sizes, is noted for the accuracy of its seeding, the precision of its spacing, its exceptional controllability and the overall sturdiness of its construction.

Performance is also excellent. Using the 30 row version, over 100 acres of land have been drilled in a normal working day. This kind of

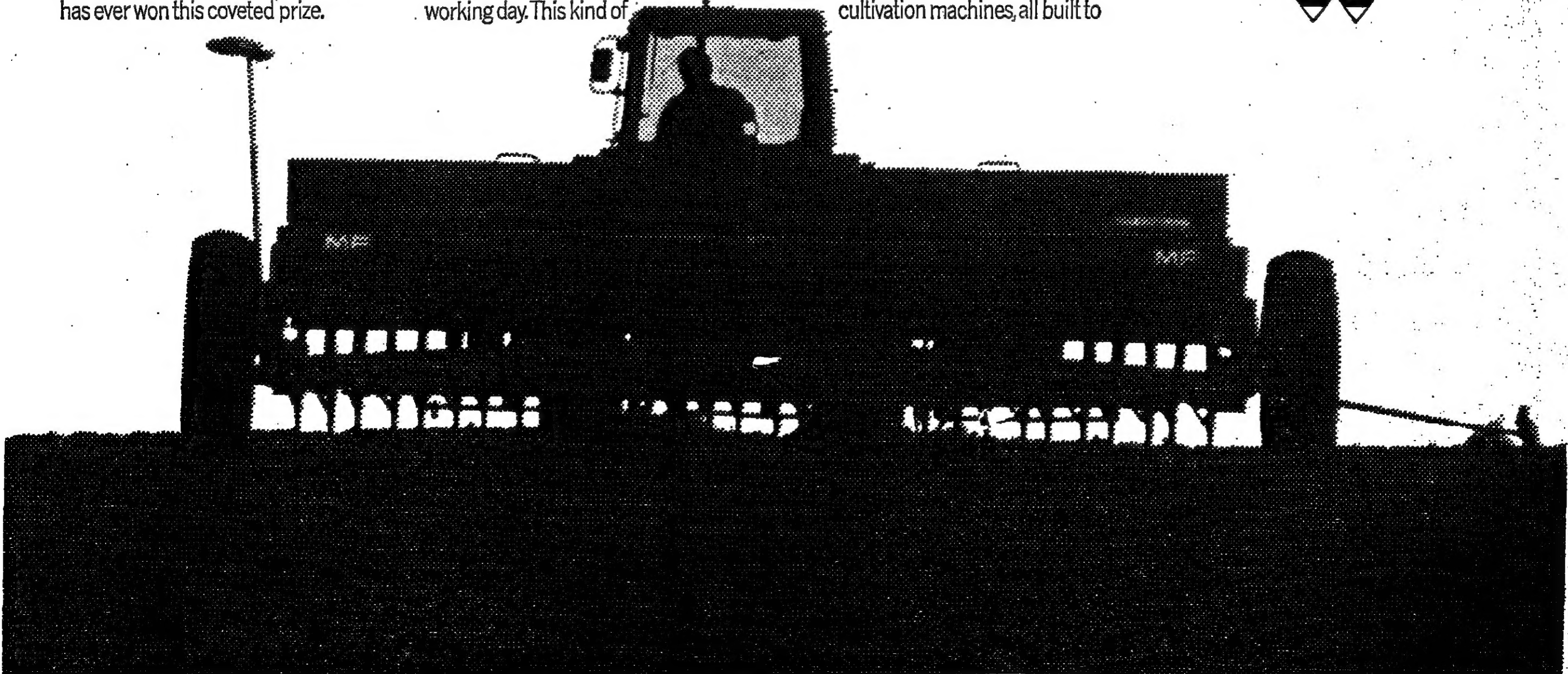
performance is being increasingly demanded by today's farmers from all their machines, and Massey-Ferguson engineers and designers are constantly working to improve the technology of farming.

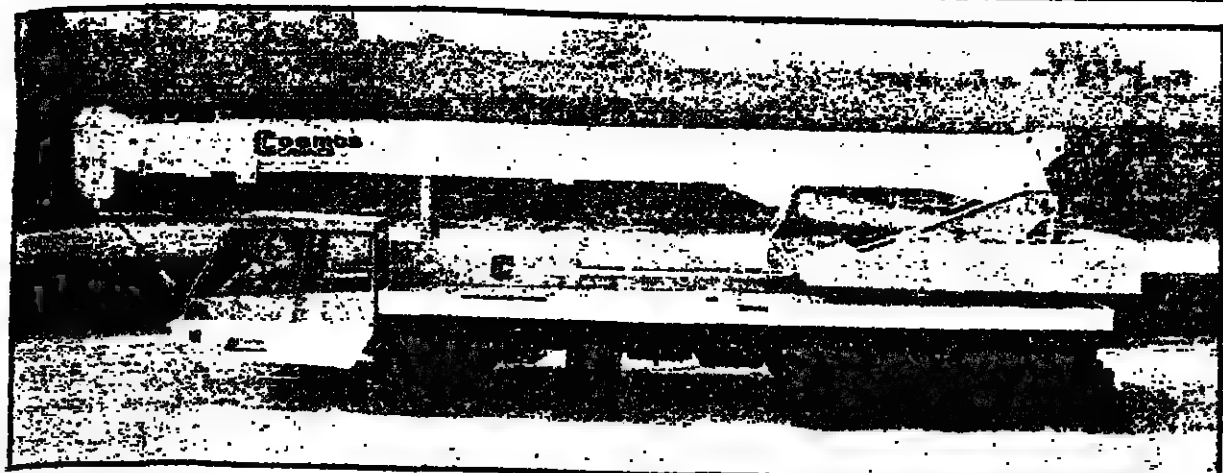
Massey-Ferguson's comprehensive range of farming equipment includes tractors, combine harvesters and cultivation machines, all built to

the same standards as the MF30 Drill.

Thank you Design Council. And thank you all the farmers who agree that the MF30 Drill is Britain's best.

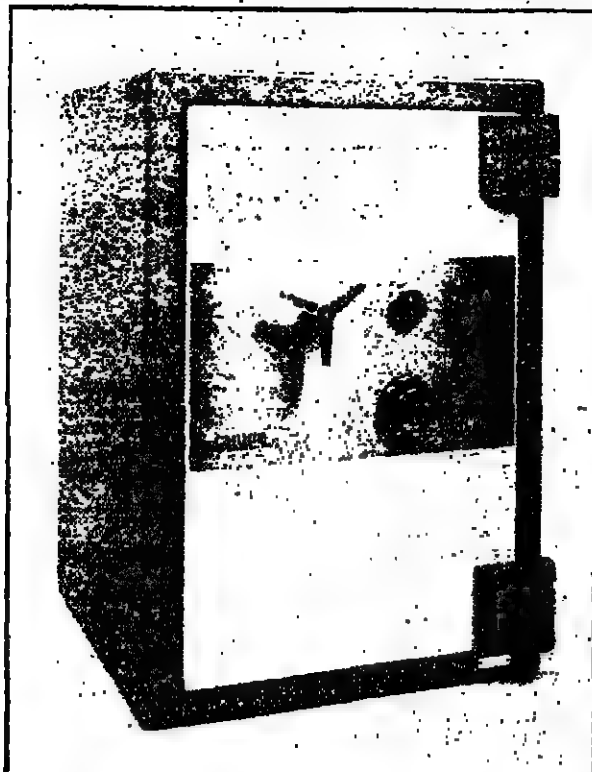
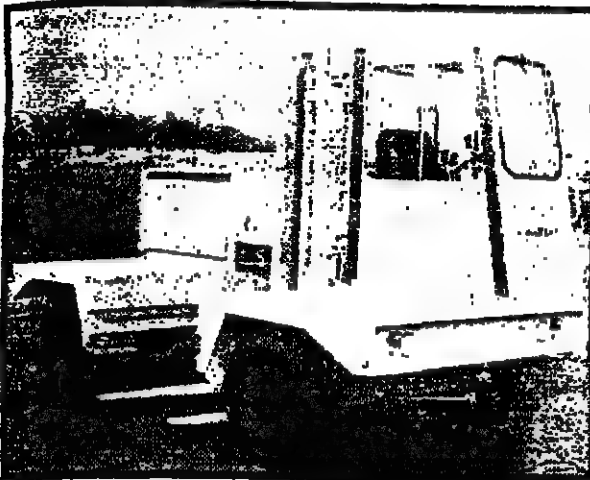
Massey-Ferguson
(United Kingdom) Limited,
Banner Lane, Coventry.





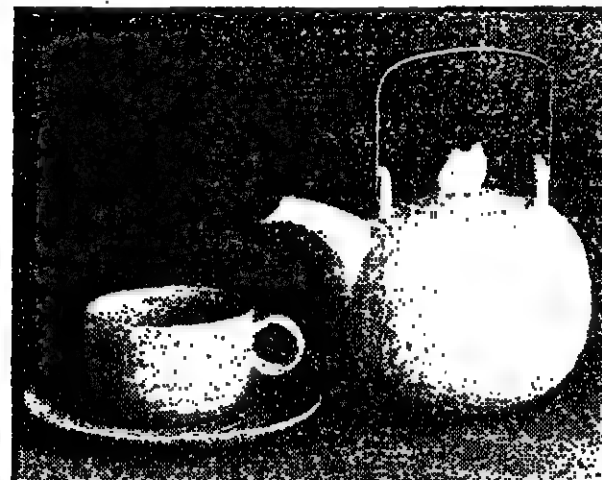
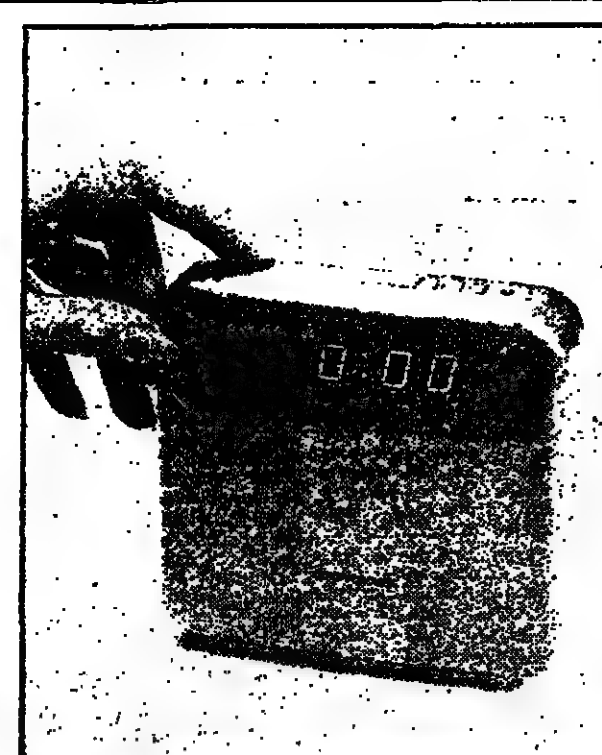
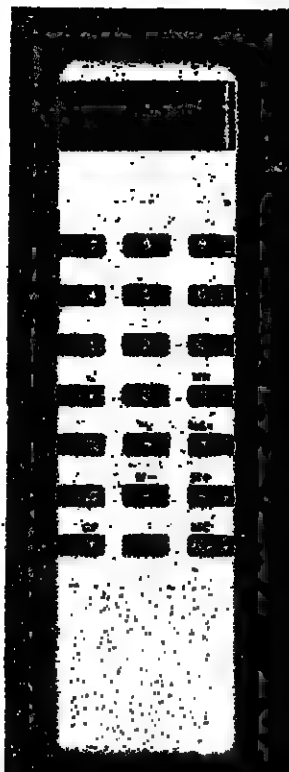
With the comfort and handling of a car, the 725CM truck-mounted telescopic boom crane (above) has won an award in the engineering products section for the Cosmos Crane Co., Aston, Derbyshire. The first crane designed by the firm, it was

planned for easy assembly from parts made by local sub-contractors. Below: robustness and functional design have won a third award for Lancer Ross, of Leighton Buzzard, for its 300 and 700 series sidelif trucks. Right: the impressive security of the latest offering from Chubb.



A wide variety of products was represented in the eight awards in the consumer and contract goods section. Below: Sinclair Electronics, of Huntingdon, took an award with its slim Sovereign pocket calculator, which is available in chrome or gold finish. Below centre: the Topper sailing dinghy, a unique technical development, from J. V.

Dunhill Boats, of Basingstoke, was another winner. It has led to the introduction of a new class in sailing. A digital clock (right), which can also be used as a timer, was successful for the House of Carmea, of London, as was (below right) the Concept range of tableware from Hornsea Pottery, of Hornsea, Yorkshire. The range is oven and freezer proof.



Cynicism has gone too far

continued from facing page

operating, although all leading manufacturers have entered models. The reason, the assessors say, is that not one has come up to the standard of excellence they are determined to maintain. Even the better entries fall down on details which should not be overlooked. Dashboard wiring instead of being clipped neatly behind the panel, hangs in limp tangles; the instrument panel design is poor, switches are difficult to locate, the carpet is inferior, and so on.

The popular ranges of British cars do not sell well in comparison with foreign makes, and the design awards

endorse what the consumer thinks. As informed, technically qualified outsiders, their judges give detailed reports on what they consider to be wrong, and invite resubmission when these faults have been corrected. This is constructive help, directly linked to the awards, which is often overlooked, although in at least one case (not a car) the faults were rectified and an award made the following year.

This year's consumer and contract goods awards also ram home the hard fact of what is happening to our manufacturing companies. There is no furniture, no textiles, no carpets, no wall coverings. Companies manufacturing such goods appear

to have put their heads down while they wait for the economic storm to blow over. I should have thought that, with the possible exception of furniture, the capital investment needed to introduce new designs would have been far less for this type of company than for those where heavy plant or moulding equipment is a necessary corollary to innovation in design.

The electronics industry on the other hand has come up with such award winners as the Thorn Airport Lighting system, which is truly innovative and has huge overseas marketing potential, the little Sinclair pocket calculator and the Carmea clock.

The Design Council was

wise to broaden the scope of its awards and in the engineering section particularly it is giving recognition to work which is often of great significance and achievement, but which goes largely unremarked by the general public. It is unfortunate that the consumer and contract goods awards, which are the ones most people know about, have been the weakest for several years.

But the Design Council is noted for its tenacity, and its persistent lobbying of recalcitrant (or ignorant) manufacturers will surely persuade at least some of them how short sighted they are. That, if nothing else, would make the whole operation worth while.

Award winners sell faster

Over 20 years 90 companies have won Design Council awards for consumer goods. In a recent survey, conducted for Design magazine, a third of them described their experience. Their evidence indicates that products that win Design Council awards sell faster than others in a company's range. They help firms to sell abroad, sell to new customers, sell to new stores. Winning an award has a good effect on foreign buyers, on staff, on customers. All winners agree good design is important to commercial success.

Here is a summary of findings, expressed in terms of "yes" replies:—

- 1 Did the product that won a Design Council Award sell —
—as well as expected 55 per cent
—better than expected 48 per cent
—less well 13 per cent
- 2 Compared with other products in your range was it:—
—more successful 45 per cent
—as successful 48 per cent
—less successful 10 per cent
- 3 Compared with competing products was it:—
—more successful 51 per cent
—as successful 24 per cent
—less successful 10 per cent
- 4 Did it sell:—
—faster than competing products 3 per cent
—own products 3 per cent

- about the same as competing products 24 per cent
- own products 24 per cent
- quicker than competing products 62 per cent
- own products 45 per cent
- 5 Did the award help you:—
—sell to new customers 59 per cent
—sell in to new stores 34 per cent
—sell abroad 72 per cent
- 6 Over what period did you amortize development costs:—
—one year 24 per cent
—two years 24 per cent
—three years 7 per cent
—other 17 per cent
- 7 Did the award have a good effect on:—
—staff 80 per cent
—customers 69 per cent
—competitors 17 per cent
—foreign buyers 55 per cent
—your corporate image 83 per cent
- 8 Was the product:—
—technically above average 93 per cent
—easy to make 50 per cent
—important to success 100 per cent
—a matter of taste —
- 9 From experience would you say good design is:—
—an unnecessary cost —

Percentages do not add up to 100 because of multiple answers. A cross-section of companies, large and small, replied to the questionnaire. Among them were Black and Decker, Chubb, Concord, Hills, ICI, Ingersoll, Wolf Electric Tools, Ronco-Neopost, and Philips Electronic.

The success story in quality and design

The Crayonne philosophy is simple. In order that it should be fully understood a Crayonne Defined Purpose was drawn up at the very outset and distributed to all concerned. Crayonne's objective as stated, was "to provide a solution to the need for functional, well designed products within the home environment: furthermore, all designs were to be developed on the basis of aesthetic appeal, clearly defined purpose, value for money and the ability to be sold through a pre-determined sector of the retail market." Crayonne was the brainchild of David Sinigaglia, Joint Vice Chairman of Airfix Industries and Managing Director of Crayonne, who in 1972, recognising an obvious gap for high quality home accessories in the plastics market, had the foresight to consult Conran Associates and their design genius, coupled with Airfix's technical skill and experience, resulted in the perfection for which Crayonne is known today.

Crayonne has a strong design management bias and this, together with its desire to break into the market with entirely new products, necessitated the creation of a dynamic corporate image which could be projected within the company, through to the retailer and ultimately to the consumer. This image has been successfully maintained to the present day.

Since 1973 when the first product range, the Input Collection, was launched the company has moved from strength to strength now having no less than 95 products currently available on the market from within the following ranges:

- Inputs * Crayonne 1 and 2 Bathroom Accessories * Boxes
- Mushroom Lights * Record & Cassette Racks * Door Numbers
- Clocks * Kitchen Shelving

The two Bathroom ranges and the Kitchen Shelving have made particular impact in gaining Crayonne valuable shelf space in the High Street with an impressive list of customers which now includes most of the major department and chain store groups in the United Kingdom. This terrific achievement is attributable to the total package being offered by Crayonne to the Retailer. A complete merchandising consultancy service is available to enable retailers to maximise sales appeal, including an attractive display board and informative packaging specifically designed for successful in-store display.

crayonne

Expanding Market Overseas

Overseas, Crayonne is now well established in the USA where a subsidiary, Crayonne USA, was set up in February 1976. Crayonne is now sold in leading department stores including Bloomingdales, Abraham & Strauss, Design Research and J. C. Penny on the East Coast; Saxon Paints of Chicago and even one store in Alaska! In addition, Crayonne has distributors in the following countries: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Holland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Norway, Puerto Rico, South Africa, Spain and Sweden and has recently made appointments in Denmark, Austria, Germany and Switzerland. The company's Norwegian Distributor, Jordan AS has been particularly successful in launching Crayonne in fifty-one retail outlets since the beginning of this year, and now Jordan Sweden are commencing their sales drive. Repeat orders from Jordan are already flowing in.

In Holland, ALM B.V. have been successful in selling Crayonne 1 bathroom accessories to the Royal Palace and have also secured a prestigious contract for a promotional item for a new pharmaceutical.

New Warehouse

In order to meet the rapidly growing demand for large back-up stocks to service both the home and export markets Crayonne, at the

instigation of Deputy Commercial Director, Len Smith, has recently acquired an additional 47,200 sq. ft. of warehousing in Sunbury on Thames.

Situated on a new Industrial Estate, the warehouse incorporates office accommodation for the export department and a superb showroom equipped with conference facilities.

The latter has been designed by Conran Associates who have maximised the excellent natural lighting and the wall space available for mounted displays. All Crayonne product lines will be permanently displayed in in-store presentations and, wherever possible, mounted display boards with suggested packaging layouts beneath.



David Sinigaglia (2nd left) is shown the new warehouse by Len Smith (right) and Export Administration Manager, Derek Rule (left).

Importance placed on exhibitions

February this year saw Crayonne exhibiting at two very important trade Fairs with outstanding success—the International Spring Fair, Birmingham and the International Housewares Fair, Cologne.

Application for double space at both exhibitions has already been made for 1978 and these will take place on 5-9 February 1978 and 18-19 February 1978 in Birmingham and Cologne respectively.

Other arrangements for this year are:—

28th April-14th May—Tel Aviv Modern Living Exhibition—where Crayonne is exhibiting jointly with our Distributors Sar Na.

5th-9th July—Tokyo The Japanese Housewares Fair—at the British Export Marketing Centre—exhibition by Crayonne.

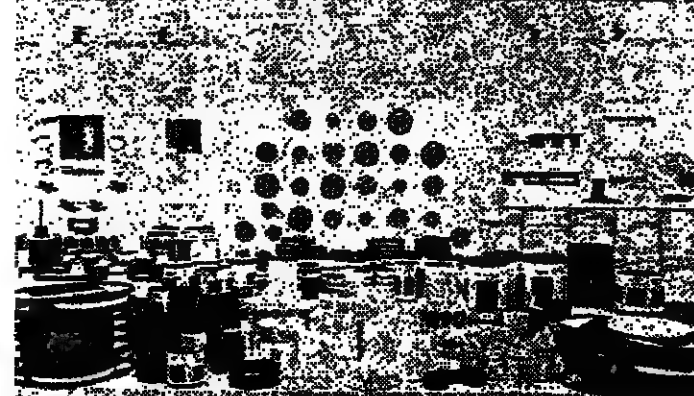
11th-15th July—Chicago National Housewares Exhibition—exhibition by Crayonne U.S.A.

Future development

Crayonne attaches the greatest importance to new product development which is kept within the strict confines of the original philosophy. Through experience gained to date a tremendous knowledge of home and export market requirements has been developed and whenever those requirements can be converted into a Crayonne product opportunity is seized!

A household name

It is now four years since the first product launch. Crayonne has developed in excess of 95 products, many of which have been accepted by the Design Council Index. It has sold many million pounds' worth of a new type of plastic home accessory to a public normally conservative to change. Crayonne is now firmly entrenched in many leading stores and is rapidly becoming a household name. This success is solely due to consistently providing good design, quality and value for money.



Some Crayonne products recently shown at the International Spring Fair, Birmingham.

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Only five entries out of 40 for engineering components have won awards, including (left) the P3000 and P4000 ranges of highly engineered hydraulic pumps from Dowty Hydraulic Units, of Cheltenham. The pumps, designed for high-volume production, are being produced at a rate of 3,000 a week for both home and overseas markets. The award is Dowty's second.



Left: the Easysheet mechanized cover which won an award for George Neville Truck Equipment, of Kirkby in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire.

A car conversion for the disabled designed by Mr. Toby Churchill, of Cambridge, himself a disabled driver, has been commended in the motor vehicle industry category—the first award under an extension of the scheme to include prototypes.

Cynicism has gone too far

by José Manser

When the design awards started 20 years ago they were greeted with great enthusiasm by the press and considerable interest from consumers.

That was a time of optimism, with the economy booming, the home market healthy and little trace of the national habit of self-designation which now grips us. Designers and architects were the people we expected to provide us with the products and buildings we wanted, and we assessed their efforts with critical interest rather than abuse.

The awards in those early years went to consumer products like light fittings, fabrics, garden tools and furniture, some of which were excellent and would be acceptable today. Indeed, one of the very first, the Pride cutlery by Walker and Hall, is being reintroduced by its designer, Mr. David Mellor, who has also become a manufacturer in the intervening years.

So for the first years the awards, with their widely based criteria of "innovation, fitness for purpose, ease of use and good appearance" were treated with cautious respect by manufacturers and public alike. But gradually a note of sourness set in. Manufacturers who had jumped on what looked like a promisingly easy bandwagon woke up to the fact that one good design was no panacea for incipient business ills.

Total commitment to excellent design may pay off in commercial terms, but one well-designed object emanating from a company with no idealistic allegiance at all, and with rumbling management faults, certainly will not. Such isolated products sank and were never heard of again after the initial flurry of publicity. Journalists, who had indulged in euphoric copy had it quoted back at them, and became more wary about bestowing accolades.

Finally someone uttered a cynical aphorism about "a design award being a kiss of death on a product", since when the yearly response to the awards has often been lukewarm and carping.

This negative attitude has gone too far. From small beginnings the awards scheme has been greatly expanded. It now includes categories for the engineering goods (both products and components) that are of such vital importance to the country's economic health, the motor vehicle industry, and medical equipment.

The judges for all categories are of the highest standing, including not only designers but leading industrialists and distinguished academics. It is a measure of how important they consider the awards to be that so many successful people give hours, without remuneration, to the tedious and meticulous business of elimination and selection.

I know from my experience of sitting on the panel of judges that there is an acute shortage of consumer products worthy even of consideration for awards. The economy, the power wielded by accountants in large companies who incline to veto innovation in hard times, and the general aesthetic illiter-

acy from which the executive classes suffer, have all contributed to that fact.

Nevertheless, there are interesting consumer products, some from young companies risking capital on new ideas, and for them the short sharp boost given by a design award can contribute considerably to the success of their efforts.

House of Carmen is such a company. It gained one of this year's consumer and contract goods awards with its Countdown CD1 electronic digital clock. Until late in 1975, Carmen was simply an importer of Danish heated hair rollers. Competition and the fall in value of the pound pushed it into diversification.

It decided to enter the digital clock market, commissioned Mr. John Ryan, the designer, to work on a simple modern design which, it correctly assessed, did not yet exist in this country, and now has it and similar products being manufactured in Scotland.

The Countdown CD1 is selling well, and Carmen intends to exploit its award with advertising, streamers on all its literature, and press releases to customers. It reckons it will be specially valuable in the important overseas markets (Sweden and Germany are big buyers) where an honour from the British Design Centre appears to carry more weight than it does at home.

Big companies as well as small place value on the winning of these awards. Many have entered and won, some on several occasions, some for engineering as well as consumer products.

Chubb and Sons is a company where the interest in design begins at the top and permeates the whole firm. Lord Hayter, the chairman, is a vice-president of the Royal Society of Arts and chairman of its industrial design bursaries board as well as being a past member of the Design Council. His belief in good design is keen, unequivocal and well known, and Chubb has just won its fourth award, this time for a safe.

Lancer-Boss Ltd, the heavy lorry manufacturers (target exports over 76 per cent of total sales this year) has won its third engineering award and Mr. Neville Bowman-Shaw, the executive chairman, is immensely pleased.

First, it generates confidence within the company and sets a high standard, particularly for the design and sales teams. Everyone's imagination is captured, they realize we have got something good and people from all departments suggest new ideas.

Secondly, because of the Design Council's government backing, it's a huge help with our world-wide exports. It is influential when we are tendering for large contracts, it impresses our dealers and is invaluable in the negotiation of licences. Licensees approach us rather than the other way round and we are immediately in a strong position for obtaining good terms.

At the mechanical hand, line exhibition at Birmingham in May, the Lancer-Ford stand has been designed to focus on the run of awards. If this gives an unduly rosy picture of the awards scheme it is because I have concentrated on companies whose total approach qualifies them for success and

who regard design as an essential factor in their overall strategy. Neglect in any department is likely to cause failure and too often that neglect appears in the design department.

That fact is constantly trumpeted by enlightened industrialists and civil servants, belaboured by designers whose talents are often more in demand overseas than in their own country—and ignored by too many of our own companies, especially in

certain industries. Things have come to a ludicrous pass when British designers are employed to work on Japanese and Italian goods which are then imported and sell well in Britain, but that is actually happening.

The design awards are a direct reflection of the over-vaunts, belaboured by designers, no motor industry awards during any of the four years in demand overseas than in their own country—and the motor awards have been

continued on facing page

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OVERSEAS

Dr Owen rules out quick EEC action on the Middle East

From Robert Fisk
Cairo, April 25—Any new commitment towards either a Middle East peace plan or a Palestinian homeland, Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, said more than two hours today discussing with Mr Ismail Fahmi, his Egyptian counterpart, the problems of southern Africa, the fighting in Zaire, the role of the Soviet Union in Africa and the present position in the Middle East.

Dr Owen told Mr Fahmi—later Mr Mahmoud Riad, the Arab League Secretary-General—that the EEC may consider some Middle East peace initiative later in the year, but for the present he held out little hope that the European nations would put any political pressure on the United States or Israel to advance the prospect of a Geneva peace conference.

"The general feeling," he said after his first round of talks with the Egyptian Foreign Minister, "is that the time is not yet ripe."

Dr Owen, who is the present chairman of the EEC foreign ministers' council, pointed out that the Israeli elections had yet to be held and that Mr Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary

of State, was due to pay his second visit to the Middle East in June.

Both he and Mr Fahmi said they were satisfied with the outcome of their meeting, although it was obvious that the Egyptians failed to gain any fresh and specific British support for a Palestinian state on the West Bank.

When asked by an Egyptian journalist about Britain's attitude towards a "homeland" for the Palestinians, Dr Owen recalled that his predecessor, Anthony Crosland, had said in the United Nations that Britain believed the Palestinians should have such a homeland.

Most nations now accept this view, including the United States. The question at issue is where it should be established, and on this point Dr Owen was not committing himself. It was a matter for negotiation between the parties concerned, he observed.

The Egyptians are particularly interested in the EEC's role in the Middle East because two months ago the semi-official Cairo newspaper Al-Ahram published what it claimed was an EEC foreign ministers' appeal to Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories.

According to the paper, the



Dr Owen being welcomed in Cairo yesterday by Mr Fahmi, Egypt's Foreign Minister.

ministers were prepared to guarantee collectively any peace settlement, but later decided to withhold their appeal until their foreign ministers had visited the Arab states.

Questioned about the alleged draft document today, Dr Owen replied: "The format does not exist."

The Foreign Secretary this afternoon travelled to the once-fashionable Cairo suburb of

Heliopolis—now the centre for Cairo's military garrison—for talks with General Gamassi, Egypt's War Minister. Tonight he was due to host a reception for Mr Fahmi at the British Ambassador's residence in Cairo.

Patrick Brogan writes from Washington: King Hussein of Jordan, who arrived here yesterday, began his official talks with the American Government

this morning. President Sadat of Egypt and Mr Rabin, the departing Israeli Prime Minister, have already visited Washington, and President Carter will meet President Assad of Syria in Europe next month.

In due course Mr Shimon Peres, if he is confirmed as Prime Minister after the Israeli elections, will also visit Mr Carter.

Pakistan's martial law challenged in court

From Richard Wigg
Rawalpindi, April 25—The opposition National Alliance today filed proceedings before the Punjab High Court in Lahore against the imposition of martial law on Thursday by the Government of Mr Bhutto. An opposition lawyer indicated that they would seek to challenge the move as unconstitutional.

With most of their leaders now jailed by Mr Bhutto, the Alliance met today under the chairmanship of Pir Pagaro, the Oxford-educated head of the Hur people and president of the Muslim League. The meeting issued a declaration warning the military authorities of the risks of partiality and "one-sided" use of martial law.

In Karachi, Hyderabad and Lahore the Army is now warning shopkeepers not to exploit the crisis by charging higher prices. They have been ordered to bring down prices to pre-crisis levels "at once". There has been panic buying by families fearful of the future.

The Army is also setting up complaints centres where shoppers can report cases of exorbitant charges in confidence, and in Hyderabad it is issuing its own price lists, telling shopkeepers they must be strictly adhered to.

At the same time the opposition intends to organize a campaign to exercise bulk purchases and then distribute essential items at low prices. The exercise would, it seems, be subsidized by the Government.

Islamabad, April 25—General Tikka Khan, former Pakistan Army chief, who is expected

to be given a Cabinet post later this week, was today elected to the Senate. Informal sources said Mr Bhutto was likely to appoint him either Defence or Interior Minister. General Tikka was martial law administrator and Governor in East Pakistan in 1971, when fighting broke out there.

He has been serving as the Prime Minister's special assistant on national security since his retirement early last year after four years as Army chief-of-staff. Political observers said his inclusion in the Cabinet would strengthen Mr Bhutto's hand in dealing with the army in the present political upheaval.

Hitherto, Mr Bhutto has held the Defence portfolio himself. He left the Interior Ministry post vacant when he named his new Government at the end of last month.

General Tikka was elected to the Senate unopposed at a five-minute session of the new National Assembly elected last month. He will be sworn in tomorrow at a regular Senate session.

The veteran opposition politician Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, former leader of the Red Shirt movement against British colonial rule in North-West Frontier province, has been granted special permission to go to China for acupuncture treatment, reliable sources said today.



Indians' champion: Marlon Brando, the American film actor who is on a visit to Britain, said in London yesterday that the American Government had continued a policy of genocide towards its Indian population (writes Ken Gosling). "They are up against the massive force of the American Government," he said. "The Indian will not give up. It is a now or never fight and the Indians know it."

Mr Brando, who is seeking funds in Europe for a 13-part documentary series on the Indians' situation, added that the reaction of white people to *Roots*—in its book and television versions—was a clear indication that Americans were ready to see themselves in a fresh perspective historically.

For 90 minutes Mr Brando addressed a press conference on the subject of his campaign after recording an interview for the Tonight programme on BBC Television this evening.

The Indian was "completely dismayed" that American foreign policy was based on human rights while they suffered every day of their lives

New claims on Rhodesia oil sanctions busting

By Roger Vialovoy
Energy Correspondent
Evidence that oil refined in South Africa by Shell and British Petroleum is supplying about 50 per cent of Rhodesia's oil requirements was presented yesterday by two anti-apartheid groups to the official inquiry

which is examining whether British oil companies have been involved in sanction busting.

The inquiry was announced by Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, earlier this month. The two groups, the Ilusomero Group and the Anti-Apartheid Movement, said in their sub-

mission that they had found new sources to confirm their allegations that oil from Shell and BP was being supplied to Rhodesia through the South African company Freight Services.

The submission said that while there were very strong

grounds for believing that the South African subsidiaries of Shell and BP were providing oil for Rhodesia, they were not accusing the head offices of the two companies of direct involvement in sanctions busting.

In brief

US officials in Havana talks

Washington, April 25—Senior State Department officials are in Havana for the first time since relations were broken with Cuba in 1961.

Names of all the delegation have been withheld, but the team is ostensibly concerned with resuming talks with Cuba over the new 200-mile fishing limit.

Manson appeal rejected

Washington, April 25—The Supreme Court today refused to hear Charles Manson's appeal against seven murder convictions for his role in the killing of Sharon Tate, the actress, and six other people in 1969. He must now serve a full life term in jail.

Kidnap death threat

San Salvador, April 25—Guerrillas who kidnapped Senator Mauricio Borbon Pohl, El Salvador's Foreign Minister, six days ago, say they will execute him on Wednesday unless the Government meet their demands for the release of political prisoners.

Geos's new orbit

Cape Canaveral, Florida, April 25—Scientists today changed the orbit of the European Geos satellite to one which they hope will enable it to perform 70 per cent of its programme. A malfunction in its launch rocket placed it in the wrong orbit.

Elusive petrol peace

Melbourne, April 25—Arbitration talks aimed at ending the state-wide petrol tanker drivers' strike in Victoria have broken down. The dispute has lasted 10 days, with filling stations in the state have closed down.

Coffee demand falls

New York, April 25—The high price of coffee has caused a sharp fall in demand for it in the United States. Thirteen per cent fewer green beans were roasted since the beginning of the year than during the same period last year.

10,000 in battles

Port Moresby, April 25—About 10,000 tribal warriors fought each other today in five different battles in Papua, New Guinea's Enga province. Two deaths are reported.

Machel visit to West

Stockholm, April 25—President Machel of Mozambique, making his first official visit to the West, held talks today with Mr Faeldin, the Swedish Prime Minister.

Dentists' tax protest

Tel Aviv, April 25—Private dental clinics throughout Israel were closed today in protest against more stringent income tax checks by Government investigators.

Gunfights break uneasy calm in Beirut

Beirut, April 25—Gunfights erupted again today in the populous west Beirut district of Corniche Mazraa, breaking an uneasy calm which had settled on the area at dawn.

Residents said that the fighting, which began just before noon, seemed less intense than at the weekend, and efforts to quell the outbreak appeared to be succeeding.

A spokesman for the radical Palestinian Resistance Front said earlier today that "six or seven" of his group's supporters had been killed during yesterday's fighting.

It is generally believed here that the clashes involved the mainly Syrian Arab peace-keeping force and gunmen mostly belonging to a pro-Libyan Nasserite group whose leader is believed to be in Iraq.

Residents of the district, where fighting started on Saturday night, said gunshots and intermittent explosions continued until dawn today before an uneasy calm.

The commander of Palestinian forces today ordered a withdrawal from the combat zone. —Reuters and Agence France-Press.

KIM IL SUNG

ADVERTISEMENT

ON FURTHER DEVELOPING THE NURSING AND UPBRINGING OF CHILDREN

Speech Delivered at the 6th Session of the 5th Supreme People's Assembly April 29, 1976



nothing to do with charity work. It is also fundamentally different from nursing children for the rich in capitalist society. With us the main point is in nurturing the working women's children; we are doing this work for the purpose of rearing the new generation into communist-type men and revolutionizing and working-classing women. I believe our Party is quite right in undertaking this work.

We should sum up and legally confirm the successes and experiences gained in the communist nurture of children over the past years and, on this basis, improve the work of nursing and educating children. A law is not something immutable. If the Law on the Nursing and Upbringing of Children adopted this time is found defective in the course of its execution, we can amend it.

The most important question is the question of nurturing children in the conduct of the training of nursery-school and kindergarten teachers well.

At present each province has its own college and centres for the training of nursery-school and kindergarten teachers, and they must be run better in future, so that a large number of nursery-school and kindergarten teachers fully qualified politically and professionally for the upbringing of children are turned out. Only then will it be possible to provide revolutionary education to the children and bring them up to be communist men intellectually, morally and physically fit.

Further, the management and operation of nursery schools and kindergartens should be improved so that the advantages of collective nurturing of children at nursery school and kindergarten over their home upbringing under parental care are demonstrated.

Our country now has more than 60,000 nursery schools and kindergartens. All of them are well-appointed. They are furnished and equipped well and are properly run. Visiting cooperative farms or factories, find their nurseries kept clean and the children healthy. The women are very happy that nurseries and kindergartens are well equipped and properly run.

In general the nursery schools and kindergartens are now in good shape.

But we must not rest content with this. Following the enactment of the Law on the Nursing and Upbringing of Children at this SPA session, the nurseries and kindergartens should be better equipped and managed more effectively.

Now the thing is to equip them better from the cultural and sanitary standpoint and supply the children with enough nutritious food. All the nursery schools and kindergartens should be provided fully with cultural and sanitary facilities, which should be taken good care of. At the same time, the supply of nutritious food to the nurseries and kindergartens should be improved to feed the children better. Even though we cannot satisfy all their needs, we must feed children well. Even though the grown-up feel some lack of supplies, the children should be provided with enough of everything they need.

After the promulgation of the Law on the Nursing and Upbringing of Children, you need not forcibly enrol in nurseries even those parents whose grandparents or parents want to rear them at home, on the pretext of developing the upbringing of children. This law is not one that restrains the freedom of parents to bring up their little ones at home. Those who want to raise their children at home may do so.

I think many nursery-school and kindergarten teachers have come to this SPA meeting ready to make speeches. But since the law is not yet in force, we cannot afford to be long with their meeting. Let us hear their undelivered speeches later at some other opportunities and wind up the meeting here. I hope you will understand the circumstances which prevent you from making many speeches.

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education and are now going to adopt the Law on the Nursing and Upbringing of Children. The new generation are brought up collectively from early childhood and given compulsory 11-year education all of them will grow up to be Communists with sound ideological consciousness.

As I have already said, we are doing this by no means because our country is rich. In the past few years we have introduced compulsory 11-year education and reared all the children in nursery schools and kindergartens, and this cost the state a tremendous expenditure.

Now 3.5 million children are in the charge of nursery schools and kindergartens in our country. And the number of pupils and students enrolled in schools of all levels from primary school to university is as many as 5,050,000. In all, nearly 8.6 million children and students are trained at state expense in our country. The number accounts for half our population. Taking charge of the upbringing of children and students makes up half the population cannot but be a heavy burden to the state.

There are also many other things for which our state bears expenses. In our country the military expenditure is fairly large. I think our country, as a socialist country, is shouldering the heaviest military burdens. Because the U.S. imperialists are occupying half the territory of our country and, together with their stooges, are openly making aggressive moves against our Republic, we are compelled to exert ourselves to increase our defence potentials.

The state also meets large expenditures to provide for the people's livelihood. We supply food grain to the workers and office employees almost free of charge. We supply them with coal and all other items of daily necessities at cheap prices.

Although the expenditure is great, we lay great emphasis on the nurture of children for the development of the country and the accomplishment of the tasks of the transition period. If we only think of the expenses and neglect our education of children, we will be unable to fulfil the tasks of the transition period, and, in the end, to build a communist society.

We have attained great successes in raising and educating children collectively at state and social expense over the past few years. Convinced that we are now in a position to give legal confirmation to the successes in the nursing and education of children, we have decided to adopt a Law on the Nursing and Upbringing of Children at this session.

The basic aim of making this law at the current session is, in brief, to bring up all the children to be true men of a communist type by nurturing

them collectively in a communist way. Rearing children collectively at state and social expense is also of importance for freeing women from the heavy house-keeping burdens and revolutionizing and working-classing them.

In our country the women are now turning forward one wheel of the revolution. The work force in our national economy. They are playing an important part in the fields of education, health service, commerce, and light industry.

Particularly in agriculture, women hold the overwhelming portion of the work force and are playing a decisive role. It is no exaggeration to say that all work in the countryside, except tractor operation done by men, is performed by women.

Under the circumstances in which women participate in socialist construction, they cannot be relieved of the house-keeping burdens. This is the only way to enable them to join public life and more of them to participate in socialist construction.

In inducing the women to take an active part in the building of socialism, our Party mainly aims at revolutionizing and working-classing them. Since they account for half of the population, their revolutionization and working-classing is a long way towards the revolutionization and working-classing of the whole society.

An effective way of women's revolutionization and working-classing is to let them actively participate in socialist construction. If they are confined to their homes apart from working, organized lives, they cannot be revolutionized. We think it would be very difficult for a husband to educate and revolutionize his wife at home. Words and writings alone are not enough to revolutionize people. The revolutionization and working-classing of people can proceed successfully only through the socialist working life and organization. The women's revolutionization and working-classing is possible only when they go out into society and actively take part in mental or physical labour and train themselves through organized communist life.

For the women to take an active part in the building of socialism their burden should be lightened by bringing up children collectively in nursery schools and kindergartens.

As you see, the collective nurture of children at state and social expense is not only needed to bring them up to be men of a truly communist type, but indispensable for the revolutionization and working-classing of women. We must therefore bring up children on communist lines, regardless of the expenses.

The collective nurture of children at state and social expense in our country has

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also on page 12

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Parties come out for battle, but will the army have the casting vote?

"Unaccustomed as I am to public speaking..." is the snigger-provoking cliché with which politicians begin their speeches in every satire. But in Spain, about to hold its first democratic general elections in 41 years, there are many candidates who could truthfully say it.

Sr Santiago Carrillo, of the Spanish Communist Party (PCE), brought the fact home at a recent news conference in Madrid when he was asked if he expected to run into any difficulties in hiring halls for political rallies. He replied: "I really don't know, I haven't hired one in 40 years."

Many modern political figures in Spain have done their share of speaking, but at clandestine meetings in private homes or other secret places, and paid dearly for it—like Sr Carlos Zayas, of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE), who spent about two years in jail on political charges. There are many other probable candidates who have also suffered for expressing an opinion.

Of course, there are some Spanish politicians who are quite accustomed to public speaking, like the former Interior Minister, Sr Manuel Fraga Iribarne, of Popular Alliance (AP). But Sr Fraga Iribarne now says things he would not have said publicly while Generalissimo Franco was alive.

At a rally of his neo-Francoist coalition in Córdoba, he harangued, "corruption must be combated. I myself saw my political career come to a halt when I opposed corruption." He was obviously referring to the Matosa swindle, which was duly covered up after the dictator announced a pardon which rescued even some of his ministers from the danger of prosecution. Sr Fraga, who was not implicated in the government credit scandal, lost his post as General Franco's Minister of Information and Tourism after he failed to stop the press from mentioning the Edon operation. In his Córdoba speech, the ex-minister and former ambassador to Britain did not explain why he had waited so long to personally denounce that instance of corruption.

Because the entrenched rich and the newly prosperous of Spain are conservative and concerned, and because the old regime's political machinery is still in working order in the rural regions which will have proportionately better numerical representation in the future Parliament than the cities, Sr Fraga Iribarne and his reactionary running mates seem to have the best chances of gaining office.

The novelty of elections has so fanned the flame of ambition that 200 parties have applied for recognition. On 100 Spanish souls that about 200 political parties have applied for legal recognition, and more than 130 of them have already been legalized. Those figures do not include tens of minute parties, mostly on the far left, which have not asked to be legalized.

At the other end of the scale the neo-Spanish New Force (FN) party, several of whose members are either under arrest or being sought for questioning in connexion with recent political assassinations, could hardly be more right-wing, and Sr Fraga Iribarne's coalition, which was originally announced as a centre movement with the Democratic Reform (RD) party as a nucleus, is so far right now that it easily embraces the leading philosopher of Spain's right-wing forces, the former Public Works Minister, Sr Gonzalo Fernández de la Mota, and is vying with Sr Blas Piñar's New Force party for the favour of the military.

Near the middle of the political spectrum are a number of parties which up to now have been attracted by two political magnets, the Popular Party (PP), led by Sr Pio Cabanillas—whose strength derives partly from the fact that General Franco sacked him from the post of Minister of Information for being too liberal—and the Christian Democrats, divided in leadership among the former Information Minister, Sr Joaquín Ruiz Jiménez, a lawyer, Sr María Gil-Robles (son and front-man of his father of the same name), and others.

But Sr Cabanillas's organization is crumbling under the pressure from another centre movement which appears to be manipulated from behind the scenes by the Premier Sr



The novelty of elections has so fanned the flame of ambition that 200 parties have applied for recognition

Adolfo Suárez. One of Sr Cabanillas's potential front-runners, the former Foreign Minister, Sr José María de Arellano, the Count of Motrico, left the Cabanillas coalition, presumably under pressure from Sr Suárez.

The other magnet of the centre seems to be losing strength, too, with lukewarm socialist and various varieties of social democrats still adrift, and Sr Ruiz-Jiménez making pacts for a joint ticket with the PSOE in certain provinces.

In the circumstances, whatever strength the centre— which has many philosophies and few programmes—could muster would be greatly accentuated by the active participation of the Premier, but his participation would at the same time overshadow the images of other centre politicians.

The well-organized Communist Party, small but highly publicity-conscious, is bending backwards to show how well behaved it can be now that it is legal. There could be something symbolic in the fact that the PCE is moving its main Madrid office from the Street of the Virgin to the rather staid upper class Salamanca borough, close to the headquarters of the far-right New Force party. But neither the Communist Party nor the extreme right is expected to poll more than a tiny percentage of the vote.

The many regional parties can be counted on to influence the elections in surprising ways, because they often seem to prefer to associate with another regional party of different political bent than with a Madrid-based party whose general political orientation is identical to their own. There are also other phenomena of interest to students of political science, such as the Carlist Party, which manages to reconcile Marxism, religious fervour and devotion to a strong monarchy. Its would-be ruler is King Juan Carlos's exiled cousin, Prince Carlos Hugo, who is the Pretender of a branch of the royal family which lost several wars of succession more than a century ago.

And, of course, there are the republicans, represented by the Spanish Democratic Republican Association (ARDE), the initials in Spanish spell the word for "burn"—and others. They are now being persecuted as subversives, although one suspects the persecution is more the result of conservative pressure from the military establishment and the retrenched political police than to any uneasiness on the part of the king.

The line-up would not be complete, however, without mention of the "Think Tank" which is so hoped will not cast the deciding vote: the armed forces. Just how sensitive Spain's generals are to the profound changes taking place is clear from their bitter denunciation of the Government's decision to legalize the Communist Party as "repulsive", and by the difficulty Sr Suárez had in finding another admiral to replace the Navy Minister when he resigned in protest.

Harry Debelius

Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (CAABU)

In *The Times* of January 4, 1977, an advertisement appeared consisting of an unpublished letter to the editor of *The Guardian* from Dr Abraham Marcus on the subject of CAABU.

The advertisement reflected on the integrity of the "leading lights" of the council and specifically of Mr Christopher Mayhew. It invited the view that they are "deeply anti-Semitic" and expressed the view that they supported a particular proposition, namely that Zionism is racist which Dr Marcus described as a "Streich-like invention".

In view of representations made to him and in case the advertisement, appearing as it did on the main feature page, was taken to represent editorial opinion, the editor takes this opportunity of making it clear that he regards these criticisms as unfounded and he dissociates himself from them unreservedly. He accepts that CAABU, in pursuing its aim of fostering a better understanding among British people of the Arabs and their aspirations, is not motivated by anti-Semitism. He recognizes that Mr Mayhew himself has a long and distinguished record of opposition to anti-Semitism and of support and friendship for Jewish people.

The editor regrets the offence which the publication of the advertisement gave to those concerned in CAABU.

Let us give President Amin a welcome that will change his whole life

Bernard Levin

I think we are all about to make a potentially fatal mistake about President Amin, in addition to all the fatal mistakes made so far. (The fatality is, of course, literal rather than metaphorical, but since it has not so far applied, and is most unlikely to apply in the future, to the staff of the Foreign Office, or indeed the people of this country in general, it can be the more easily borne here.)

The mistake, ominously signalled by many an inspired leak and many a discreet sounding of Commonwealth governments, consists of the rapidly hardening intention to keep him out of Britain, despite the fact that, as a head of state, he is entitled to attend the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in June. (Britain has broken off diplomatic relations with Uganda; but that is not equivalent to expelling Uganda from the Commonwealth, an action which in any case could not be taken unilaterally by this country.)

For a government which officially welcomed Mr Choupek from Czechoslovakia, a government, moreover, representing a party which welcomed Mr Shelepin and Mr Ponomarev from the Soviet Union, this sudden access of fastidiousness has its comic side, though the other one is rather more prominent. (The comic side is not to be ignored, though, and if Amin does come here I am looking forward to Mr Clive Jenkins, Mr Ian Mikardo and Mr Len Murray enthusiastically refusing to meet a brutal dictator.)

There is a case to be made for Amin's exclusion, on what might be termed hygienic grounds. He is not

merely a despot (what do you suppose all the other heads of one-party Commonwealth African governments are?), but a particularly vile murderer. Some of his victims, like Archbishop Luvum, have been prominent figures whose deaths have aroused very widespread feelings; but the list of Amin's unnamed corpses is now tens of thousands long, and his killers are still at work. Even the British Government, it is argued, must draw the line somewhere, and where ever such a line is drawn, surely Amin must be on the far side of it.

There is one small difficulty embedded in this argument, though I do not rest my case on it. If Amin is to be excluded, what reason will be given? It is no use making a moral gesture if you pretend while doing so that you are just scratching your ear or waving to a friend. (It is probably no use making a moral gesture anyway, but that is another matter.) I remember the proposed visit to this country of Eva Perón in 1947: she was a considerable embarrassment to the Attlee Government, because as the wife of a head of state she could diplomatically insist on meeting the King and Queen, and some deft footwork was required to ensure that their Majesties, while not being advised by ministers to refuse such a meeting, were (most regretably) otherwise engaged, out of London, on essential monarchical business when the Icky-painted tyrantess was due to arrive. Fortunately, she took the hint and didn't come. (Amin is hardly one to take hints.)

If the same attitude is displayed

to Amin's visit—if, for instance, he were to be excluded on the ground that a serious outbreak of cattlepest in Uganda made it unsafe for any Ugandan visitors to be admitted for a couple of months, or if, less sensationally, the Commonwealth Secretary were to announce that it had been decided that Amin's presence would be "inappropriate" or "liable to misconstruction"—it would be altogether pointless; yet it is Government, let alone the whole Commonwealth, announcing that the reason is that Amin has simply murdered too many people. (Besides, how would the president of a state which includes Zanzibar sign such a communiqué with a straight face?)

But there is a better way. Let us, with, if desired, appropriate expressions of distaste overcome by diplomatic necessity, invite Amin like all the other Commonwealth leaders. When he is here, let us show him all the appropriate diplomatic courtesies; let the Queen shingle her personal feelings—it is her job to do so, after all—and entertain him along with the rest. When the conference is over, let us invite him to stay on to see something of the country; he could have an official tour, inspect the troops at Sandhurst (perhaps escorted by that Gallant Major who seems to think that his ex-Sergeant is a splendid chappie, though perhaps inclined to be a bit headstrong these days), go to Ascot and see the same race, open a hydro-electric works in Scotland, pop back to Ipi-Tombi. Nor is that all;

properly primed, our EEC partners should also invite him to see their countries, if only to discuss trade with Uganda and possible technical aid for its economy. It should not be difficult, by such or similar means, to keep Amin in Europe for a month, or even longer.

I am perfectly serious, and by now the reason for my modest proposal should be apparent. The condition of Uganda, bounded by fear, corruption, arbitrary rule and economic catastrophe, is desperate. Amin's vile rule is maintained by his random Stalinist cruelty. But the clue is in the word "random". As is shown by the defection of such loyal servants of his regime as his personal pilot and the former Minister of Justice (to say nothing of the ridiculous Princess Elizabeth of Toro, who was not so long ago pleased to strut before the United Nations as Amin's envoy— I'm not sure she wasn't "Foreign Minister" for a time—and denounce Israel while praising Amin as "a straightforward, honest leader"), nobody in Uganda, however devoted to him or his regime, is safe from his mad vengeance, or can believe in any such safety.

In the circumstances, I believe that if Amin is kept out of Uganda for a sufficient length of time, so that his dreadful, hypnotic presence is removed, his regime will be overthrown.

Nkrumah, towards the end of his own tyranny in Ghana, was almost as despicable and brutal as Amin, though on nothing like the same scale, and without Amin's obviously paranoid

impulses. Moreover, he took care to keep the support of those with power unless he really thought they were plotting against him, and made no such disastrous errors as Amin has in the indiscriminate nature of his tyranny. Yet when he went on his state visit to China, he was greeted even as he descended the steps of the aeroplane, with the news that he was no longer dictator of Ghana, but plain Mr Nkrumah of no fixed abode.

It is almost inconceivable that a similar fate would not overtake Amin, whose position is far more precarious (and far more obviously so) than was Nkrumah's. But in view of the coward and crushed nature of the people he would be leaving behind him, time is needed for his overthrow to be organized. He has been out of Uganda several times already, but never for more than a week or two; a month in Europe should suffice—with luck, much less.

If he is overthrown while here, it will pose a fresh problem for the Government: what to do with the remains? But that problem, at any rate, has a clear and necessary solution. I am not exactly one for state vengeance or political trials; but any Ugandan Government which arose from the ashes of Amin's rule and which expressed a wish to have him back so that he could stand trial for his crimes against the Ugandan people, should have its request promptly acceded to by the British Government. And presently call the rest of the watch together, and thank God you are rid of a knave."

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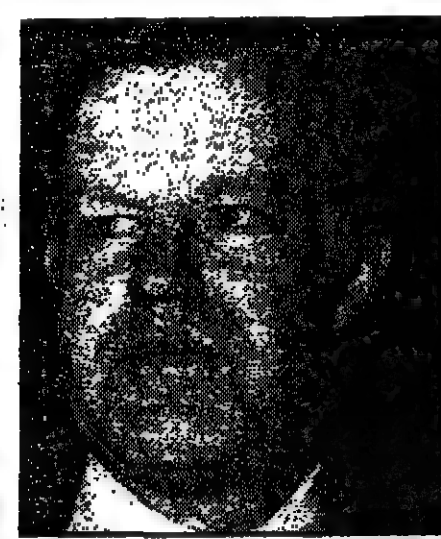
London's evening papers: two into one may go



The men at the centre of the merger talks: from left Mr Maxwell Aitken, whose appointment as joint managing director of Beaverbrook Newspapers was announced last Friday; the Hon Vere Harmsworth; Mr Jocelyn Stevens, deputy chairman of Beaverbrook.



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"They talk of the *Evening Standard* leaving a gap in London as though it were about to die. There is no question of that," Vere Harmsworth, chairman of Associated Newspapers, told me yesterday in the offices in which the new *Daily Mail* was planned six years ago, just before its merger with a *Daily Sketch* and re-launch as a tabloid which has since won awards and sales.

"The *Standard* is no more about to die than the *Evening News*. A new paper is being born. It will have the best of both papers, and it will be produced by a combined staff, drawn from both papers.

"It will be very strong culturally and will be inspired by the *Daily Mail*, with its breadth of appeal. There will be wide City and business coverage, but also a good deal of literary and political analysis, as regards both London and the whole nation. The *Evening Standard* is very much alive, but living things have to adapt to life and the facts of life."

Vere Harmsworth sees the new paper as a competitor for the *Daily Mail*, despite being in the same group. "A general London newspaper is a national newspaper. People in London don't care what happens in Harrogate, and there are excellent local weeklies to take care of regional local interests. What happens in London is of national interest, and vice versa. We have the money and the will to support the new paper. We are not buying it for purely altruistic reasons, although there is an element of that."

That is a fact which cannot be denied, since it would be cheaper for the *News* to pick up *Standard* readers than to buy a paper whose continuing life in the independent Beaverbrook group is doubtful.

"Our jobs and our reputations are at stake," Vere Harmsworth said. "We do not want to go on losing money and they cannot buy the *News* or sustain a new paper. It would be buying the *Standard*, because we want this new paper and we shall nurse it as we did the *Mail*, which is now largely kept in the *Evening News*, although when the *Mail* went tabloid, the reverse was true."

One might ask why the character of the *News* has not been changed before if it is to be changed now; why it has stayed as a middle-class suburban newspaper with East End undertones.

The story goes back to 1960 and could begin, "Once upon a time there were three newspapers: the *Standard*, a West End newspaper; the *Star*, an East End workers' newspaper; and the *News* for the suburbs." When Associated Newspapers bought the *Star* in 1960, it pushed the *News* into working-class territory, and it took on the morning and evening editions. The *Standard* was a Saturday paper, since when it has found it difficult to shed its hybrid nature.

The emergence of the *Standard* with a positive West End and City character, during the 60s, tended to force the *News* even further into the suburbs, a different area all its own just to be distinguishable if not distinguished. It has cared about London and about culture, but it has never done it with the same assurance and has never acquired the reputation of its rival.

The *News-Standard* will have financial advantages denied to two separate journals. There are immediate cost savings in combined distribution and even more in joint production. The

abolition of rivalry will mean that some sanity can be brought to the expensive business of changing editions.

The one paper will also be able to cut down on promotions which too often bleed away revenue, especially where there are new marketing projects like the West London editions of the *News*. The Saturday *Evening News* will almost certainly go, but a Saturday edition is hard to cost. Besides the complex pay structure, there is a largely foreign readership for a Saturday paper among people who want only racing information in the morning and football results in the evening. Although there is obviously some overlap of readers between the daily and the Saturday, it is probably small, and six-day continuity is not considered essential by the *News*. The Saturday edition, however, is a different matter. The Saturday paper looks like an expensive luxury.

All round, there will have to be searching examination of present systems and editions if the new paper is to pay its way. Even when the paper finds its market, there will need to be continuing talks for cheaper production and new technology to make it profitable. With computerized composing and reasonable production manning, the paper will live and could

be profitable within a year or 18 months. Without such agreements, profit is anything but automatic.

The surprise is not the merger of the two evenings now, but that it did not happen seven or eight years ago—when I asked Vere Harmsworth why not, he shrugged a "you tell me" reply. In fact, both groups were close to rapprochement eight years ago, but a cooling-off period was agreed before final signature and it cooled both sides so much that negotiations died. The famous hostility of the heads of the two groups, visited upon the sons by their fathers, has prevented talks until the current illness of Beaverbrook's finances as much as of its figurehead, Sir Max Aitken.

Anecdotes of Sir Max's hostility, away from apocryphal, abound in Fleet Street—like the one about a meeting set for mid-Chunnel. Non-sailor Vere Harmsworth kept the rendezvous. Sailor Max was belated and did not arrive. It is not enough to establish a new paper. The *Mail-Sketch* tabloid launch worked because the product was on target and money backed it. The *Express* tabloid launch in January was bedevilled by the *Daily Mirror's* success in a four-sided tabloid war with the *Joe Haines* revela-

doos, but there was something more, something indefinable which led to its loss of some 143,000 copies daily last month while the *Mail* gained about 103,000 (as compared with March, 1976).

The *Express* looked good, read well, but did not win readers. The paper's personality has to hit human chords and minds to do that, as the *Mail* did and as Associated hope the *News/Standard* will.

All through the 60s, second evening papers in Britain's big cities had to make their way by rivalling the *Standard* at the back end of the decade when Beaverbrook sold the *Evening Citizen* to the enemy, Outhwaite. The London merger comes late, and Londoners have long enjoyed an expensive bonus. There is some bitterness about the *Standard* team because they produce a paper which will lose an estimated £2m this year, only half the *News* estimated loss. But the *News* parent has the money and prepared to offer a dowry. The result should be more pages, more advertising, and a safer place on the streets of London.

Oddly, the late Lord Beaverbrook always coveted the *Evening News*, desiring to some degree the third-place *Evening Standard* right up

until after the last war. He had for so many years chased the *Daily Mail* with the *Daily Express*, longing to overtake it but always lagging, despite lavish free gifts of life insurance and china (so much of the latter that he had to buy a potter), as well as holding the price down in a bakhshy when the *Mail* went to a penny during the First World War. When Beaverbrook bought the *Standard* from Sir Edward Hulton, virtually on the latter's deathbed, he began to chase the *News* with the *Standard*.

He had to wait until 1933 to bring the *Express* circulation up to 1,800,000 and see it pass the *Mail*. He had to wait until 1934 to catch the *News* even in the post-war 40s it sold about 760,000 compared with the *News*'s 1,500,000. Competition between the two groups has always been more intense than commercialism could dictate, and Lord Beaverbrook's *Standard* and Lord Hulton's *Express* in case it ever caught up, just as he held on to *Daily Mirror* and *Sunday Pictorial* shares until the 50s.

Students of mergers will know one thing—the first announcement of a sale flings out other serious contenders, and that could happen now. Although the *Standard* has been turned down by any likely buyer in this country of America. But *The Times* was about to be merged with the *Financial Times* and Lord Thomson bought it from under the very noses of Lazard's, the merchant bankers handling the deal, and gave it not only life but also falling losses. Just as Thomson, thinking he had Odhams Press magazines under his belt, lost to what is now the International Publishing Corporation. Rupert Murdoch, who owned the *News of the World*, that spread the *Sun* from death, was a worse fate at the hands of other buyers. Those who have already announced a lack of interest in the *Standard* could come back. One thing is sure. The value of the *Standard*, or not, can only fall as its misfortunes are aired and a final deal is delayed.

Sheila Black

The Times Diary

So do we need the Think Tank?

vital one is laughable and malicious.

I was struck by the similarity between the *Think Tank* reasoning, as reported in *The Guardian*, and my own critique. Compare these two extracts, first from *The Guardian* report, on the subject of the EEC: "Much of the business of the Community and its council of ministers falls within the responsibilities of the domestic departments. Ministers of Transport, Energy, Industry and the like go backwards and forwards to Brussels accompanied by specialized officials. Why then, the review staff has been wondering, is it necessary to maintain a professional diplomatic service?"

And this is what I wrote: "When a Foreign Secretary goes abroad nowadays he is invariably accompanied by officials from ministries relevant to the concerns of the country he is visiting. . . . It would be a much more efficient arrangement if, say, a man from the Ministry of Agriculture, wanting to talk about Polish eggs, were to get straight on the phone to his opposite number in Warsaw."

It occurs to me that the *Think Tank* have spent over a year, at public expense, reaching a conclusion to which I had already come several years ago, without anyone calling me exceedingly clever or making remarks about my eyes. Somebody now should start an inquiry into whether we need a *Think Tank*.

HARDNESS CASH & CARRY

This service, so much more convenient than leaving it there and having to call back, was discovered by the Rev Peter Morris, of Gillingham, Kent.

Off days

The company chief who, as I reported recently, complained to me about an unsatisfactory meal in the pricey Rib Room restaurant at the Carlton Tower Hotel, where a cheeseburger without the chips cost an astonishing £4.25, has been mollified. He has declined an invitation to a free meal from the assistant general manager, but says he is now willing to go back and try again.

Others do not forgive so easily. One man who claims to have lived and died in North America, the Middle East and the Far East has written to say that "the worst meal that I have ever had was at the Carlton Tower Hotel". The food was so bad, he says, that the manager did not charge for it, explaining away the poor quality by revealing that "the chef was in a bad mood".

The managing director of a

large public relations company says he recently lunched a Japanese guest in the Chelsea Room at the hotel and came away with a less than three-course meal for three with a bill of just under £40. "The food," he writes, "was poorly cooked and everything seemed to be swimming in butter."

At the end of the meal his party was presented with market research forms, and he was embarrassed to find that his Japanese guest, in filling out a section asking where he came from, was offered the choice of UK, USA, Europe, Middle East or "other" and was obliged to tick the last.

"I was surprised at the quality and price of the restaurant," concludes the PR man, "because I have organized many functions in the hotel over the years, and have generally been satisfied at the quality of the service, food and prices. It was at least five years since I had been to the Chelsea Room and I don't care if it is another 25 before I go again."

Gushing

It was ironic that, as the Norwegians were grappling with a potential environmental disaster at the Ekofisk oilfield, another North Sea operator should be picking up a gold medal for its anti-pollution measures. Senior staff of British Petroleum were at Fishmongers' Hall in London yesterday to receive the premier award of the Angling Foundation for keeping the sea and rivers clean.

The foundation, a consortium of fishing makers and other bodies with an interest in angling, gave BP their medal for its four platforms in the Forties Field, the submarine pipeline to Cruden Bay, the land

pipeline to the refinery at Grangemouth and its other installations in the Firth of Forth. The citation said gushingly that BP "went well beyond the legal requirements."

Kenneth Mackay, parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, presented the awards. His responsibility for oil slicks begins when they reach the shore, and he told my reporter that he alerted local authorities all along the east coast, lest the Ekofisk slick should come this way, and had been finding out if enough dispersant chemical was ready to deal with it. It was. And BP made it.

Geoffrey Larmine, general manager of BP's environmental control centre and one of the team collecting the medal, thought the Ekofisk blowout was a failure of equipment or human error. But a major advance since the last great oil spill near British waters, the Torrey Canyon wreck, was that oil-dispersing chemicals were now about 1,000 times less toxic, Larmine claimed. He added that BP would be reviewing their safety procedures in the light of the accident.

Big red

P. H. Simplicissimus, my economics and energy correspondent, reports:

Government technicians were working round the clock last night in an effort to stem a possible leak of gigantic proportion in Stage Three of the pay policy. Although cold water direct from Whitehall is being poured on hopes of massive pay increases, there are growing fears of an explosion of unimaginable proportions, leading to runaway inflation. Denis "Red" Healey, (so

called because he was once in the Communist Party) and Smarmy "Boots" Callaghan, two of the world's most experienced bombthrowers, have been flown to the scene of the blow-out as that which now threatens.

The pair are a product of the old, rough school of British politics, belying the sleek image of the liquefied-floored offices of their headquarters in Whitehall. Though wealthy men, both are prepared to leave their lives of comfort and plunge into the dirty and dangerous business of shop-floor bargaining.

When I asked him what drives him, yesterday, daredevil Healey threw down his wide-brimmed fedora and drawled: "When it comes to the crunch, a man has to do what he has to do. I have this kind of primal urge which drives me to ever more daring feats."

Later he made his first visit to one of the sites of the possible explosion in Scarborough. "It is not just a test of skill and sagacity," he said. "It is a test of our ability to meet the challenge of the modern world. It may be hell, but we have to carry on." Experts, however, remained sceptical, as usual.

In Conan Doyle's story, *The Blue Carbuncle*, written at the turn of the century, Sherlock Holmes gives a boy half a crown to insert advertisements in all the London evening newspapers. There were 14

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THE CIVIL SERVICE AND THE TUC

Among the British virtues foreign visitors place alongside the niceness of our policemen and the quaintness of our rural architecture is the political neutrality and permanence of our Civil Service. Americans in particular find it hard to understand why our top administrators stay at their desks after a change of government.

Like so many well-polished images of national life, the political purity of our Civil Service is not quite as impeccable as it seems. It is not that civil servants are crypto-socialists or Tory "sleepers". Yet, like any other group of professionals, Whitehall is far from monolithic in its views. Officials do need political antennae of some sensitivity if they are to serve their political masters adequately. But should senior civil servants become overtly political, the praising sense it would be reasonable? To most people the passing of a valuable and precious feature of public life would be a matter for regret. The upheavals of political change would be accentuated and the candour of policy advice available to ministers diminished.

Such fears are raised, though in a mild form, by a decision of the executive committee of the Association of First Division Civil Servants (FDCS) to recommend affiliation to the TUC. The FDCS, which represents 10,000 officials at the apex of the Whitehall pyramid, will debate the issue at its conference next month. The views of its membership will be sought through a ballot in June. To date, the FDCS has been scrupulous in its consultations with political parties in an attempt to discover the likelihood of objections to TUC membership from ministers and would-be ministers.

The Conservative Party, whose present leadership has displayed a pronounced dislike of the corporate state in all its forms, is the main worry. Mr. Gerry Flanagan, chairman of the FDCS, has clarified beyond doubt his association's determination to let all concerned—the TUC, the Government and political parties—know that TUC membership will not be allowed to affect the political neutrality of the higher Civil Service. With commendable candour and realism, Mr. Flanagan wrote in a letter to Mr. Prior, Conservative spokesman on Employment: "While we may

be clear in our own minds about what is intended, it may or may not be quite so evident to the ministers we serve at present, to those who might hold office in the future or to the general public". Nor can one be sure that Government-TUC relations will never again come to a fundamental conflict. The situation of 1925 or 1947 could recur.

Mr. Prior's reply assured the FDCS that TUC affiliation would not be seen by the Conservative Party as placing the independence and impartiality of the Civil Service at risk. He recalled that other public service unions had joined the TUC. The FDCS and the Diplomatic Service Association are the only two Civil Service staff associations still outside the TUC, except for members of MIS and M16 who are not allowed to join a union at all.

The doubts persist. The FDCS wrote privately to the 150 permanent secretaries and deputy secretaries within its membership to canvass the views of the men and women in most constant and sensitive contact with ministers. Few took their opposition to the point of threatened resignation. But a substantial proportion, probably about half, although details of the response have been kept secret, expressed reservations with varying degrees of intensity. Interestingly, however, those in most direct contact with the TUC at the Department of Employment and economic ministries like the Treasury showed themselves in favour of affiliation.

Privately the Conservative leadership is uneasy. It cannot be seen publicly showing suspicion towards the TUC. Mr. Prior has turned his desire for all men and women of good will to participate in their unions' affairs into something of a clarion call. FDCS membership is consistent with his desire for a more broadly based TUC. But senior Conservatives have not failed to notice that other avowedly politically neutral public service unions already within the TUC fold have refrained from dissociating themselves from the more partisan statements of the TUC through a public reaffirmation of their impartiality. Had they done so, FDCS membership would be easier for the Tories to take. Every incoming government harbours the suspicion that its

permanent officials remain secret sympathizers of the outgoing rival. In 1951, Sir Winston Churchill's vivid phraseology depicted the Civil Service as "steeped in socialism" after six years of Mr. Attlee. Whitehall refers to the first 18 months of a new government as the "ministerial learning curve". There is always tension as officials question the wisdom and value of "the promises and panaceas which gleam like false teeth in party manifestos", to borrow the memorable metaphor of Lord Rothschild.

Civil servants exist to put reality in front of ministers. It is the soul of their service. If ministers have an alibi, however unjustified, which allows them to brush aside unwelcome advice it is not just the Civil Service but the country that will be the loser. Higher civil servants do not need reminding that the crucial element in the public's judgment of the ability to govern of the next Conservative ministry will be its relations with the TUC.

The FDCS should proceed with caution. It cannot be faulted on the propriety of its consultations with Mr. Prior. But should its conference and the membership ballot endorse its executive decision, the FDCS leadership should put implementation on ice. The time to do it would be two to three years into the next Conservative government when the Tory Cabinet's relationships with both the TUC and its official advisers is easier to discern.

Senior civil servants have seen their differentials shrink. Permanent and deputy secretaries had part of their pay award frozen by the Cabinet even before the present version of incomes policy began. But it is difficult to argue that would not have happened if the FDCS had been within the TUC. A body of 10,000 will never carry much weight in the higher councils of an organization of nearly 11 million and nothing will be easier than for the more fervent spirits in the TUC to dub it a "bosses' union". Senior civil servants may feel hard done by and unfairly criticized of late. Much of the criticism has been trivial and misguided. But a decision at least to delay affiliation, involving an element of self-denial and conspicuous constancy, would do the public image of the higher Civil Service no end of good.

Exchange rate and export prospects

From Mr. Bryn Gould, MP for Southampton, West (Labour). Sir, My colleague's warning (April 19) of a possible unemployment problem if the exchange rate is maintained at its present level is one further indication of just how rapidly the prospect of export-led growth has receded over recent months.

There was a time not so long ago when the Chancellor believed that the pound had made our exports unacceptably competitive and profitable and on the strength of this he confidently predicted that export-led growth was just around the corner. The Government has now belatedly recognized that sterling's fall did no more than, and probably not enough to, keep pace with our loss of competitiveness, with the result that our export prices for manufacturers are now less competitive than at any time since 1972, itself a high point of uncompetitiveness.

It is for this reason that the Chancellor now predicts import-led growth. He expects a decline in our share of world trade, an increased level of import penetration, rising unemployment and depressed living standards. He is apparently content to accept this, and expects the country to do likewise, on the basis that a stable pound will help reduce inflation and improve the prospects of a new pay agreement.

It is true that if we allow North Sea oil to prop up the exchange rate, we might knock a point or two (no more) off the inflation rate. But the cost of terrible damage to the competitiveness of industry, to employment, investment and living standards. Such a strategy might make some small sense if we were still, as so many seem to believe, an economy which imports raw materials and exports

manufactured goods, but nearly 60 per cent of our import bill is now accounted for by manufactured goods. It would be the ultimate foolishness to hold up the exchange rate in the fond belief that we were thereby holding down industrial costs, when the real effect would be to penalize exports and subsidize the very imports which are closing down British factories. Even the Government's immediate objective of a pay agreement is made immeasurably more difficult by their present policies. In the absence of growth (and export-led growth is the only sort we are allowed), the Chancellor is forced to rely on depressing real wages in order to make room for new investment. The tragedy is that the very policies which make this necessary but increasingly unlikely also ensure that the sacrifice will be in vain and that the essential investment will not take place. What industrialist worth his salt would invest in new export capacity with the Government committed to policies which mean that exports will be even less competitive and profitable than they are now?

The Government's chances of securing a pay agreement, breaking out of our economic straitjacket, and winning the next election depend crucially on offering some light at the end of the tunnel in the form of rising living standards and falling unemployment. These prizes can only be secured through export-led growth but will be totally out of reach if the Government is unwilling to face unpleasant facts on the exchange rate. There is unfortunately little hope that the Government will break decisively with a century-old policy of holding up the exchange rate at whatever cost to the real economy. Yours faithfully, BRYN GOULD, House of Commons, April 22.

Preserving hospital beds

From Sir Francis Avery Jones, Sir, By their filibustering tactics in the House of Commons, Mr. George Cunningham and Mr. Arthur Lewis (The Times, April 23) highlighted not only the problem of the closed beds at St Mark's Hospital but also the present serious difficulties facing many London hospitals.

St Mark's is a small, highly specialized hospital for diseases of the colon and rectum, with an international reputation, and at least half of its inpatients come from outside London. Unlike other London specialist hospitals such as the neighbouring Moorfields Eye Hospital, St Mark's is funded locally by the City and Hackney district and not centrally. This district includes some of the worst areas of inner city decay and also one of London's best known hospitals, "Bart's".

Following the recent regional redistribution of NHS funds this district has had to close 250 acute beds, including 14 out of the 93 at St Mark's (saving £18,000 in three months—a small contribution to the half million deficit of the district). The problem is not due to overall NHS underfunding, but to the new DHSS distribution policy. This year money is being taken away from the inner London areas and given to the outer parts of the London regions, such as Essex.

Bart's and St Mark's provide a considerable amount of highly specialized medical services for Essex and indeed for a wide area around London. Building up such specialized services in the home counties takes a long time, but our hospitals have been moving ahead of manpower and resources. Bart's and St Mark's no longer have the same ability to help Essex patients, and their own local population is also suffering.

Between London's City and West End and its garden suburbs there is a dense depression of urban decay. Only recently Mr. P. Shore has given Government recognition of the plight of such city zones and has promised help. Simultaneously the DHSS is weakening their medical services. Unhappily, by an internal ruling, the DHSS has taken the full force of the DHSS reduced allocation. Brent in north west London has also lost 250 acute beds, again disproportionately large in relation both to population and to its severe inner city deprivation. This year its budget is being further reduced by a levy for Bedfordshire. The misery is indeed affecting London's entire inner city ring.

There are simple solutions for these problems. (1) At a time of economic no-growth it does not make sense to attempt to build up expensive specialist services in the home counties, when all the help needed is available near the main London railway stations. Free travel vouchers would be a sensible interim solution. (2) The DHSS and the Department of the Environment should harmonize their plans. (3) All specialist hospitals, making

national contributions to the NHS should be centrally funded. Yours faithfully, F. AVERY JONES, Chairman, Medical Committee, City Road, ECI, April 25.

From Professor M. J. S. Langman and Professor E. M. Symonds, Sir, The publication of the Department of Health's resource allocation working party report which recommended a redistribution of resources so as to allow the underprivileged regions such as our own to catch up financially will have given the impression that there will be a speedy end to such unjustifiable inequalities. The impression is wrong. The Department initially suggested that growth in underprivileged regions could be as much as plus 5 per cent compared with minus 1 per cent (or contraction) for the well endowed metropolitan regions. This position has since been modified so that the proposals are that the least in need will gain 1 per cent and the most in need 3 per cent.

The twelfold difference in additional funds seems large, but the actual sums of money involved are in fact small when related to the sum in each area. Furthermore, the amounts which are to be received under the revised proposals are considerably less than those which the Trent region would have received if the Resource Allocation Working Party had never reported. The region has had and still has a large building programme and in 1977-78 this would have attracted some £12.6m in funding as a revenue consequence. Under the revised working party proposals we shall in fact receive only £4m and this sum is to include funds needed to support an expansion of medical student teaching as well as to open new and long-needed buildings, and to carry out any other development of existing services.

As matters stand we are asked to mount the most ambitious redevelopment programme in the United Kingdom, starting from a basis of the second lowest average funding in the country with the lowest proportion of consultants in the country, and where the consultant expansion itself is not expected to reach the target of 100 per cent until between 1985 and 1990. If anyone thinks that these trends are over emphasized they may care to enquire about the fate of the late R. H. S. Crossman's proposals for equalization in the late 1960s (and subsequently dropped). The pressures against redressing inequalities are indeed formidable. Yours faithfully, M. J. S. LANGMAN, Professor of Therapeutics, B. M. SYMONDS, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Nottingham, City Hospital, Nottingham.

there is concern about economic mismanagement by a distant, central government. People are concerned about the economic exploitation of areas in Cornwall by absentee landlords. The Government takes the form of large estates like those of the Prince of Wales or of houses, flats and shops which, owned by people outside Cornwall, are used solely in the tourist season. Yours faithfully, JAMES WHEAT, Prospective Cornish Nationalist Candidate for Truro, Trelispen, Gorrana, St Austell, Cornwall, April 18.

North Sea precautions

From Mr. David Laurent Giles, Sir, Disasters of the magnitude of Ekofisk seem necessary to persuade us of the need for reasonable precautions of fast vessels fitted with fire fighting and detergent or other dispersal equipment, which can be on the scene anywhere within our offshore oil fields within a maximum of about three hours following such a catastrophe. The early arrival of such "first aid" vessels is essential in order to prevent fire or contain the spill within manageable proportions before the arrival of slower, heavier ships to lay floating booms and use suction equipment or sea skimmers. Such smaller vessels need not present a great expense, since there

are dozens of other offshore and fishery protection duties which, increasingly, require to be done and which require similar characteristics. They can also perform a valuable "dissuasive" Naval role. It is finally, depressing to consider that—a similar blow out had occurred last Saturday in the Ninian field—it seems that the nearest fire fighting ship available would have been the Phillips-owned "Seaway Falcon" which was (fortunately) as it turned out (according to Ekofisk) it would have taken about 18 hours for that vessel to have steamed to Ninian—what consequences one shudders to contemplate. Yours faithfully, DAVID LAURENT GILES, 24 Seymour Road, SW18.

Mebyon Kernow

From Dr. James Whetter, Sir, Contrary to Mr. Philip Sharp's view (April 16), canvassing activities by our party, which is contesting at least two seats in the next general election, show that there is an increasing interest in Cornish nationalism. Like a lot of areas which have their own individual history and cultural identity, Cornwall appears to be a growing awareness of the need to preserve this knowledge of their roots in the face of the sterile and neutralizing material that is poured out by the mass media. Also, in several peripheral areas with high unemployment,

Introduce the proposal of the working party however and jurors will expect to see the defendant at his desk. Then if he occupies the dock jurors will know that they (who have access to information like previous convictions, other pending charges, general reputation, material unknown to the jury) consider he poses a security risk. Then a defendant would truly be prejudiced in the eyes of the jury by being placed in the dock. Worst of all if it were known to be the judge's decision that this exceptional defendant had to sit in the dock. "He knows more about him than we do." Yours faithfully, JOHN FIELD EVANS, 1 Fountain Court, Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham, April 22.

Accused in the dock

From Mr. J. Field Evans, QC, Sir, According to a report in The Times today a working party of the Howard League for Penal Reform proposes that defendants in the Crown Court, other than those who pose a security risk, should no longer be required to occupy the dock during their trial but should be seated at a table or desk. I have some experience of defending people in the Crown Court; I devoutly hope that this proposal is NOT put into effect.

By present practice all accused persons appear in the dock when charged and that is where jurors expect to see them; wherever they are and whatever they are said to have done. There must be defendants remain seated throughout their trial. They often leave the dock at adjournments of the court in the absence of the jury. The jury is concerned only with the evidence and not with administrative arrangements (eg. bail or the reasons for them).

Some considerate judges in appropriate cases allow the defendant to sit at some suitable place in court outside the dock throughout the trial. One enlightened recorder in the Midlands frequently does so in driving and shoplifting cases. He makes his decision knowing from reports before him something of the defendant's character, and having read the statements of the witnesses about the offence charged—matters unknown to the jury. But these cases are exceptional. The rule is: no one is to be seated at a table or desk at the present practice.

Civil servants

From Mr. J. N. F. Davenport, Sir, Your photograph in yesterday's paper (April 21) of civil servants at work on an irrigation project in Laos shows that the profession is the same all over the world. Of the 150 or so people in the photograph, only two appear to be doing any work. The rest are leaning on their shovels, surveying the scene, or perhaps discussing the next move. Perhaps the photographer caught them waiting for a tea break? Yours faithfully, JOHN DAVENPORT, 26 Hilary Road, Warrington, Surrey, April 22.

Arab trade boycott

From Dr. Patrick Cosgrave, Sir, May I comment on your recent article by Mr. Malcolm Rifkind and Mr. Malcolm Brown, and on your own leading article (April 15)? All three discussed the nature and effect of the Arab boycott of Israel with considerable point; but contrived, none the less, to miss something of significance.

British companies wishing to trade with an Arab country are required to agree to the terms of a boycott form issued by that country, not by the boycott office in Damascus. I have before me as I write the boycott forms provided by the governments of Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Syria. In each case the British company has to agree, not merely to the fact that it does not trade with Israel (a not unreasonable condition), but merely that it does not have Zionists on its board or in control of its affairs (a more questionable condition), but that it is not in the hands of Jews.

In my submission, British companies agreeing to the terms of these forms is in breach of our various race relations Acts. When one realizes that some Arab countries and the boycott office are trying to enforce the so-called tertiary boycott (i.e. a refusal to trade with companies in a third country who trade with companies

in their own country who do not comply with the conditions of the boycott) one realizes how complex and dangerous the ramifications of the boycott have become. In these circumstances it is surely disgraceful, having regard to the interests of our own citizens, that the Foreign Office agrees even to witness boycott documents.

Finally, Sir, you were wrong in your implications of your article of April 15, in your discussion of the lady whose offer of a job with Gulf Oil was withdrawn upon her marriage to a Jew. You said that "The law has been successfully invoked". The lady in question appealed to the Race Relations Board. The act creating the Board enjoining its officers to seek agreement between the disputing parties before any recourse to the courts. This being done, the lady settled for compensation. She did not get her job back; the amount of compensation was never disclosed; and the contention that compliance with the boycott is in breach of British law was never tried in court.

A year or two ago an article in The Times Business News called for a Parliamentary select committee to investigate the nature and effects of the boycott. The appointment of such a committee is long overdue. Yours faithfully, PATRICK COSGRAVE, 66A Chelsea Square, SW3.

Soviet human rights

From Mrs. Lyudmila Alexeyeva and others, Sir, The Soviet authorities have arranged seven members of the Group to Promote the Observance of the Helsinki Agreement in the USSR. They are: Yuri G. Bykov (physicist, aged 52), Aleksandr Glazov (manager of the Solzhnitsyn Fund in Aid of Political Prisoners in the USSR, aged 40), Anatoliy Shecharavsky (physicist, 29), Nikola Rudenko (writer, 55), Oleksiy Tikhiy (teacher, 50), Zviad Gamsakhurdia (philologist) and Mirab Kostava (philologist).

The Group was formed last May to promote implementation of the humanitarian provisions of the Helsinki Agreement. It has distributed its material on violations of human rights in the USSR to the governments of all countries signatory to the Helsinki Agreement, including the Soviet Government.

The arrest of the seven members of the Group, headed by Professor Orlov, showed that the Soviet authorities have no intention of

fulfilling the Helsinki Agreement or of letting the Soviet public monitor their actions. They intend to use the arrested persons as hostages in their campaign against dissidents and in their negotiations with the West.

As overseas representatives of this Group we appeal to the public in those countries which subscribed to the Helsinki Agreement to pressure the release of these arrested. Genuine security in the world is impossible without the observance of human rights, and the violation of these rights in the USSR is a threat to the whole world.

The Soviet authorities are compelled to reckon with world public opinion, and your readers give us the support the seven arrested Soviet hostages may be released. Yours faithfully, LYUDMILA ALEXEYeva, ANDREY AMALIK, VLADIMIR BUKOVSKY, Post Office Box 90, Bromley, Kent, April 19.

Christian decline

From the Bishop of Norwich, Sir, If the President of the Cambridge Humanist Society would peer over the top of his ivory tower he would discover that the numerically largest and most active student society in Cambridge is called "The Christian Union", and is celebrating its centenary this summer, following a University Mission in February, when numbers were immense, and many found an intelligent faith in Christ, while living in a scientific world.

Christianity in decline! My foot! Yours encouragingly, MAURICE NORVICH, The Bishop's House, Norwich, April 21.

From Mr. John Beaumont, Sir, Mr. Gilmour (Letters, April 21) implies that the religious view is incompatible with the conclusions of modern science. It is true that nineteenth century materialism, with its conception of matter as capable of being seen and touched as the only test of reality, was hostile to religion. If the claims made by materialism were valid, it could be deduced that religion was false.

What modern science has done, contrary to the opinion expressed by Mr. Gilmour, is to remove the grounds for this deduction. The foundation for the nineteenth century view has gone. Modern matter is infinitely more attenuated and elusive. The scientific account of the universe is selective one. The possibility of the reality of spiritual values remains open.

This does not mean, of course, that modern science proves religion to be true; it only shows that the reasons which science gave for sup-

posing religion to be false were invalid, and that the scientific picture of the world is not all embracing.

Yours faithfully, JOHN BEAUMONT, Senior Lecturer in Law, Leeds Polytechnic, Vernon Road, Leeds, April 22.

From the Rev. M. E. Bennett, Sir, Mr. Gilmour, president of the Cambridge Humanists (April 21) in his careful search for the "basic reason" for what he imagines to be Christianity in decline, doubts he should be told that in Africa in 1925 there were five million (institutionalized) Christians and in 1977 there are ninety million. Yours sincerely, M. E. BENNETT, Secretary, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, April 22.

Abolition of the GLC

From Mr. O. P. Stutchbury, Sir, Though all abolitionists will be delighted with, and grateful for, George Hutchinson's support (column, April 23), speaking for myself, I would rather the GLC remain than see it replaced by a Ministry for London appointed by central government. What we all need in this country is considerably less government. There is no earthly point in replacing a County Hall bureaucracy with a Whitehall bureaucracy. Yours faithfully, OLIVER STUTCHBURY, Abolish the GLC Campaign, 51 Oakley Street, SW3, April 23.

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THE LAW ON PRESS MONOPOLY

It has been sadly apparent for some time that London is unable to support two competing evening papers. The circulation of both the Evening News and the Evening Standard has been falling steadily for some years, and with it their profitability. Although the News is in fact making greater losses than the Standard, under the deal now being worked out between their respective proprietors Associated Newspapers, which owns the Daily Mail and the Evening News, would buy the Evening Standard from Beaverbrook Newspapers with the intention, in effect, of creating one new London evening newspaper from the two existing ones. Newspaper mergers and takeovers are, rightly, treated with particular attention by the law. The public interest in a free and varied press is considered so important and sensitive a subject as to warrant the provision of special protection against the danger of monopoly power in the newspaper field.

Under section 58 of the Fair Trading Act, 1973, the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, Mr. Hattersley, is

required to give his written consent before any transfer of a newspaper to a proprietor whose own newspapers, together with the newspaper concerned in the transfer, have a total circulation of 500,000 copies can take place. That criterion is clearly met in the case of Associated Newspapers purchasing the Evening Standard. The Secretary of State is obliged, subject to some exceptions, not to give his consent without first having before him a report on the public interest aspect of the proposed transfer. One of those exceptions, provided by subsection (3) of section 58, permits him to give his consent without prior reference to the Commission, where he is "satisfied that the newspaper concerned in the transfer is not economic as a going concern and as a separate newspaper" and he is also satisfied either that, if the newspaper continues a separate existence, there was one of urgency or that it was not intended to continue as a separate newspaper.

In spite of statements over the past few days that the Evening Standard was operating at a

trading profit—which might be true over a short period but is an unreliable indicator—its overall financial position appears to be parlous. It has lost in the region of £2m in the past year. There seems little prospect of recovery, though given the manning and technology, it might become normal in the United States. The Evening Standard might perhaps have been returned to profitability, and can be argued, therefore, and no doubt will be if the expected arrangements are finalized, that the conditions required by the Act for the Secretary of State to give his consent to the purchase without reference to the Monopolies Commission will have been met. The Evening Standard would be a newspaper "not economic as a going concern and as a separate newspaper" and not intended to continue as a separate newspaper. Before giving his consent, however, the Secretary of State must genuinely satisfy himself that the exceptions apply. He would be doing the newspaper industry, and the reading public, a disservice if he were to act merely as a rubber stamp for this or any other proposed deal.

quantity in favour of a different argument about the financial value of food.

If vegetable prices exceed wheat prices by a sufficient margin, it is clearly possible to build houses on a wheatfield, plant vegetables in the garden and produce food of higher value. But the amount of food produced is less than if the farmer had devoted the whole of the original field to vegetables.

The trouble with the financial yardstick is that food prices may change for many reasons. Food shortages may increase prices, whereupon the garden protagonists would presumably exult over "food of higher value", whereas people concerned with food quantities would take a diametrically opposite view.

The claim that garden food is a bigger import saver than farm food from the same site was made many years ago and has subsequently been falsified by events. Most householders have not, in fact, devoted much of their gardens to food. Moreover, the food-saving calculation neglected several important inputs. New settlement sterilizes more than its own site. It also exerts pressure upon adjacent fields, lowering their productivity and causing them to go idle. The idle land alone often exceeds the area of the new settlement.

All these facts support the commonsense view that farmland should be conserved as a resource for the future, and housing should be located to upgrade those wasteland areas that Mr. Senior would like to condemn to a dead future.

Yours faithfully, ALICE COLEMAN, Director of the Second Land Utilisation Survey of Britain, University of London, King's College, Strand, WC2.

Care of old people

From Mr. Hugh W. Mellor, Sir, The headline to your news item about our annual report (April 20) regrettably misrepresented what the National Corporation for the Care of Old People is trying to say and perhaps I may be allowed to correct it by stating very briefly what this is. The report recognized that a rigorous assessment of priorities in services for the elderly, as in public expenditure generally, is essential at the present time. In discussing what these priorities should be, it expressed the view that services to the elderly in their own homes (supportive of family care where the elderly have families to give it) should be maintained wherever else had to be pruned back. Indeed NCCOP considered that it makes economic sense to improve domiciliary care because of the pressures this could take off other services such as hospitals or special housing, and because with increasing unemployment, labour-intensive services have beneficial side effects. The provision of residential homes for the aged was, contrary to your headline, very low on the list of priorities.

Yours faithfully, RUGBY W. MELLOR, Secretary, National Corporation for the Care of Old People, Nuffield Lodge, Regent's Park, NW1.

Local broadcasting

From Mr. Bernard Crossley, Sir, Your recent correspondence about local broadcasting seems to have been confined to the expression of alarm about the future of BBC local radio in the light of the Anson proposals. I find myself in agreement with much of the argument

Garden or farm produce?

From Miss Alice Coleman, Sir, Mr. Senior has revived (letter April 15) the central fallacy of the old "garden controversy" by sidestepping the argument about food

MASTERMAN
the Liberal cause

US upset British
hopes for new
Gatt multi-fibre
deal, page 18

Japanese reject Mr Dell's 'double your British imports' demand

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, April 25

Britain's latest demand that Japan should double United Kingdom imports within two years to rectify the imbalance in trade between the two countries was described as "unrealistic and unfeasible" in Tokyo today.

Dashing the hopes of Mr Dell, the Secretary of State for Trade, who laid down the United Kingdom's two-year timetable during a meeting with Japanese business leaders in Tokyo last week, a senior Japanese official told *The Times* today: "We do not think it is possible to meet this demand."

After seriously studying Mr Dell's statement it is not feasible to meet this target within two years, given the state of the world economy."

The official, Mr Fumio Murakami, director of the Japanese foreign ministry's bureau for Western Affairs, said: "It is unrealistic, under the circumstances. We can only double our imports from the United Kingdom if we double our exports to the rest of the world."

Outlining the rationale behind Japan's arguments, Mr Murakami continued: "Mr Dell's statement that Japan was not adhering to the principle of free trade. (Mr Dell pointed out last week that Japan's import ratio of manufactured goods was 20 per cent, compared with the 50 per cent of other developed nations.)"

In reply, Mr Murakami raised a counter-argument that Japan lacked all forms of resources and was forced to divert most of its import spending towards raw materials.

"For example, out of Japan's total imports of \$65,000m (1976) in 1976, roughly 80 per cent went on mineral fuels," he said.

He went on to declare that Japan's import ratio of manufactured goods, as against total imports, amounted to 30 per cent in 1973 but had declined to 20 per cent in 1975 after the sharp rise in the price of crude oil.

"Nevertheless the ratio increased to 21.5 per cent in 1976 and the ministry for international trade expects the ratio to rise to 30 per cent in 1985."

Replying to Mr Dell's assertion that the United Kingdom also imported raw materials but permitted an import ratio of

manufactured goods in the vicinity of 50 per cent, Mr Murakami claimed that Japan remained isolated from other developed countries.

"Since the United Kingdom is part of the European Community and it has close relations with other industrialized nations, there is a free interplay in the exchange of manufactured goods. Near 35 per cent of Britain's foreign trade last year was with members of the Community, 15 per cent with other Western European countries and 12 per cent with North America."

The government official went on to remind Mr Dell that 47 per cent of Tokyo's exports were delivered to developed nations and 40 per cent of her imports were received from developed nations. (Significantly there was no mention that a large measure of Japan's imports of raw materials and food are derived from Canada and the United States.)

Because of our distance from other industrialized nations, the method of importing raw materials and manufacturing sophisticated goods ourselves," the official said.

"The ratio of United Kingdom's total volume of trade to the gross national product is 10 per cent. In Japan's case it is 30 per cent. Japan's imports comprise mainly food and raw materials and we have little room to import manufactured goods."

"If we can increase the total volume of trade to a similar level, then the volume of manufactured imports will be larger," Mr Murakami said.

Reacting to Mr Dell's suggestion that many European nations, including Britain, faced similar problems, Mr Murakami agreed that Britain also lacked raw materials.

"But in the case of the United Kingdom, you can export twice as much in relative terms and can therefore import more manufactured goods. In Japan's case we will have to export twice as much to be able to import the large quantity of manufactured goods, as suggested by Mr Dell."

"Therefore the Government does not think that it is feasible that Japan imports from the United Kingdom can double within two years," he said.

Business Letters, page 18

Mr Varley declines to give pledge on Parsons

By David Felton

It was becoming clear last night that the Government is facing a very difficult decision over the ordering of the £600m Drax B power station, with the possibility of a revolt by its own backbenchers and industrial action by power generation workers.

With the strength of rumours growing that the Government had approved the takeover of the C. A. Parsons part of the Reynolds Parsons group by Sir Arnold Weinstock's GEC as part of an agreement for the Drax B order to be placed with GEC, Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, failed to reassure his backbench critics.

He refused to give an assurance in the Commons yesterday to Mr Mike Thomas, Labour MP for Newcastle upon Tyne, that he would underwrite a pledge by Parsons that there would be no takeover without the agreement of the Parsons' unions.

And late last night Mr Thomas, along with other Labour MPs with power generation factories in their constituencies, came away from a meeting with Mr Varley and his junior ministers still unhappy at the Government's stance.

Mr Thomas said after the meeting: "Nothing Mr Varley told me in any way reassured me. I believe the Government has embarked on the course I feared, but I now hope that the representations that have been made will persuade the Government to change its mind."

The feeling in Westminster last night was that the issue will now have to go back to the Cabinet for further discussion. Unions at Parsons want a national turbine generator company with Parsons and GEC as equal partners and the National Enterprise Board holding a 20 per cent stake.

Parsons has renewed its pledge of no merger talks without union agreement and unions representing the 6,000 workers at the Newcastle works are opposed to any deal which sees the company taken over by GEC.

Opposition to a quick deal with GEC also came from members of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union. Mr Frank Chapple, its general secretary, spoke to Mr Varley by telephone and urged him to postpone any final decision on the matter.

He had been discussing the TUC fuel and power committee. He said that better production

Sixth reduction by clearing banks this year will aid industry

Base borrowing rate down to 9 pc

By John Whitmore
Financial Correspondent

For the sixth time this year the cost of bank borrowing has been reduced as a result of yesterday's decision by the leading banks to lower their base rates from 9½ to 9 per cent.

The banks have been widely expected after Friday's cut in the Bank of England's minimum lending rate (to 8½ per cent), means that the banks have now reduced their base rates by 5 per cent since January 1.

The latest reduction in base rates will bring the cost of borrowing for blue chip industrial borrowers down to 10 per cent. Most personal overdrafts will now cost 12 to 14 per cent.

In addition, the Midland is also cutting its rates on personal loans. The flat rate comes down from 10 to 9 per cent, cutting the true rate of interest on, for instance, a two-year loan from 19.7 to 17.7 per cent. True rates on similar loans from the

other major clearing banks vary between 16.7 and 18.7 per cent. The further the customer's home is from the bank, the more probable it becomes that the banks will attempt to offset the loss of income by increasing some of their other charges.

So far, the squeeze on bank profitability that generally goes hand in hand with falling interest rates has been mitigated by, first, the fact that the cost of money market funds has been falling even faster than base rates, and second, by the move by the banks to widen the margin between the rates they charge to borrowers and the rates they offer on deposits of less than £10,000.

Since the period when interest rates were at their peak in the final quarter of last year this margin has widened to 3 to 4½ per cent—the 4½ per cent margin being maintained by yesterday's decision to cut deposit rates by a further

1 per cent to 4½ per cent.

But the general assumption in most banks now is that even if further scope appears for cutting lending rates over the coming weeks, it will be almost impossible to cut deposit rates further without risking substantial switching of savings from the banks to the building societies.

As it is, the building societies are already considerably more attractive to the saver, offering 7 per cent net of standard rate tax, equivalent to 10.7 per cent gross. The banks will doubtless be hoping that it will not be too long before the building societies decide that their monthly investment inflow is sufficient to permit a significant cut in the 7 per cent rate.

In the money markets yesterday three month Treasury bills continued to trade at a level, which, if maintained throughout the week, would point to the possibility of a further small cut in MLR on Friday.

Derek Harris writes: Mr Clifford Sellick, chairman of the Bridgewater Building Society, speaking at the society's annual meeting yesterday, said that perhaps some of those who were so vociferous in suggesting a decline in interest rates for borrowers would one day tell them how they could pay investors market rates and lend at rates substantially lower.

The country could not have it both ways, he said. If building society rates for investors were pitched too low, incoming funds declined and there would be complaints of a mortgage famine.

Mr Sellick said it had to be remembered that the investor's capital may, over the years, have been eroded because interest did not keep pace with inflation. The borrower in the same period would have seen the value of his house increase

Leyland chief's 'fighting' talk as review document goes to NEB

By Clifford Webb

Sir Richard Dobson, chairman of Leyland, chief executive of British Leyland yesterday personally delivered the Government-ordered review of the state-controlled motor manufacturers' operations to Lord Ryder head of the National Enterprise Board.

The study, which has taken just a month to complete, is understood to contain a unanimous recommendation from BL's board that the proposed £200m project to build a new Mini should be retained with minor cost saving modifications.

It also sets out a number of choices ranging from a switch from the proposed LC10 medium sized car to the Mini project, to the complete abandonment of the Mini project and the closure of assembly operations at Longbridge and Cowley.

Clearly recognizing the explosive nature of this latter threat to 40,000 jobs Mr Park was at pains to assure employees that the board would be fighting to retain as much of the existing set up as possible.

In *British Leyland Mirror*, the group's newspaper, he said: "The vital thing is to plead our case. It is one thing to write the report, but persuading people to accept our recommendations is another and we have a lot of persuading to do."

He said that better production

In the last few weeks—since the disastrous toolmakers' strike—meant that Leyland had reached the first of three milestones set by the Government.

"We have gone back to work. We have brought production up to the required level (understood to be 20,000 cars a week) and now we must attain the second objective—that of sustaining production."

"If we can do that it is going to have an enormous effect. If output is not sustained then we have a big battle on our hands."

He warned employees that Leyland's credibility was the main stumbling block. "We have to face the fact that our credibility is crumbling at the seams. I appreciate the worry that so many employees have about the future but we must improve our credibility and everyone must play their part."

Lord Ryder and his team are expected to maintain daily contact with BL executives as they prepare their own recommendations for Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry. This stage is expected to last about a fortnight.

Mr Varley's officials have been busy over the past month seeking the views and advice of motor industry executives outside Leyland. They include Mr George Turnbull, the former managing director of BL who has just returned from a three-year contract with a South Korean motor group.

Our Industrial Editor writes: Creditors of British Leyland are to rank above the National Enterprise Board under the arrangements for supplying £100m of loan capital to the car group while the review of its future investment programme continues.

The NEB's agreement with Leyland shows that the £100m is being made available under terms that provide for repayment instalments between 1982 and 1997 at interest rates ranging between 14½ per cent and 15½ per cent. However, the board's rights to the repayment of principal and interest are "postponed to the rights of all other creditors of the company."

Presumably that portion of the money being supplied under Government direction from Industry Act funds will follow the terms of the general NEB agreement.

Union warning: Union leaders will tell the Government tomorrow that Leyland Cars must be allowed to develop its own engineering design and tooling if it is not to face disaster.

The engineering union's staff section (TASS) will present Mr Leslie Huxford, Minister for Industry with a report stressing the importance of Leyland Cars breaking its dependence on importing such facilities from Western Europe and the United States.

1300 to leave German steel plants

Voelklings, West Germany, April 25—Stahlwerke Roehling-Burbach GmbH will lay off 1,300 employees this year, partly as a result of the partial closure of two steel-making plants, a company spokesman said.

The company is jointly owned by Arbed Aciéries Réunies de Burbach-Elch-Dudelange SA of Luxembourg and Roehling Industrie Verwaltung of Saarbrücken.

Of the total workforce of 20,000, 400 will be dismissed, 400 will leave voluntarily and 500 will be pensioned off, the spokesman said.

The steelworks has worked short-time in different sectors from 1975, but this is now concentrated in the ordinary low carbon steel sector.

At Easter there was a near shutdown which will be repeated in August for the company summer holiday because of the situation in the steel industry.

The spokesman said the company expects to show a loss in 1976, but lower than 1975's DM 138m (about £34m) loss on turnover of DM 1,750m and steel production of 249 million tonnes crude and 191 million tonnes rolled. Final 1976 figures have not yet been released.—Reuter.

UK in joint £140m deal to sort out Arab rubbish

Recruitment has started for the army of more than 2,000 workers, which together with 300 dustcarts, 200,000 dustbins and other equipment are needed to take on what is described as the "world's largest public services project".

The contract, awarded earlier this year to a partnership of Pritchard Services Group, Britain's largest industrial cleaner, and Waste Management Inc of Chicago, is to take over rubbish collection and disposal for Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia.

Valued at around £140m, the five-year renewable contract is almost worth as much as the entire British contract cleaning industry and is the biggest it has ever encountered. Wage bills in the heavily labour intensive cleaning trade are generally estimated to account for more than 50 per cent of costs.

Pritchard, which is responsible for organizing the labour and to need about 2,000 recruits by the end of the year.

Of these 60 will be managers, mostly from Britain. The remainder, Pritchard, which already has wide experience of handling mixed nationality workers for other, smaller cleaning contracts such as Heathrow Airport, is looking to Egypt, Pakistan and South Korea.

Top of its immediate list are managers to recruit and train (salary £8,000 to £13,000 tax free) who are prepared to travel and have knowledge of Arabic or Urdu.

Also under way are the vast back-up services of housing, medical services, and insurance needed for a work-force of this size. Facilities are needed for the people and for the £15m worth of equipment. Maintenance workshops with adequate spare parts will be installed to keep the fleet of specialized cleansing vehicles on the streets.

One of the early tasks is to work out the most suitable refuse containers for householders, street markets and other readers and to organise the appropriate frequency for collection. A special new waste tip is being built for disposal of the refuse.

According to Mr Peter Pritchard, the company's chairman, this is the first time that a city has contracted out its entire cleansing system. Previously Riyadh, which has a population of about 600,000, had run its own cleansing department.

Patricia Tisdall

Sir Eric prepares his reply

By John Brennan

Sir Eric Miller spent much of yesterday with his lawyers, Oppenheimer, Nathan & Vandijk, hammering out the final details of a letter to the shareholders of Peachey Property Corporation.

Sir Eric, accused on Friday of misleading his fellow directors over expenditure of £282,000, plans to fight the board's case for his resignation at the group's annual meeting next month.

It is understood that Sir Eric is to take the advice of John Addy Associates, the public relations group, in his campaign to be re-elected and that his letter to shareholders refuting criticism of his personal dealings with the company and breaking his two-week silence about the boardroom row will be published early this week.

A spokesman for Peachey confirmed yesterday that the board would be required to give Sir Eric "the courtesy of reply" to his fellow directors' call for his dismissal and that the group could arrange for circulation of his letter.

Apart from a brief statement rejecting the call for his resignation, Sir Eric has not yet commented on revelations in Peachey's accounts that he had repaid over £200,000 of personal debts to the group, or Friday's claim that he had misled the board over the expenditure of a further £282,000.

Lord Maiz, Peachey's chairman, and Barclays Merchant Bank, recently appointed as financial advisers to the group, claim to have support from sufficient institutional shareholders to defeat Sir Eric's attempt to remain on the board.

The shares rose 3p to 47½p yesterday on renewed speculation interest, despite the board's cautious denials of any takeover approach.

Wall St closes at low for year

Wall Street dropped sharply yesterday, closing at its low for the year. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 12.47 points to 914.60 on trading of 20,440,000 shares.

Institutional selling of leading blue chips and glamour stocks led the decline for the third consecutive session. Reasons for the selling included inflation worries, concern over tighter credit conditions

US supports boost for IMF resources

From Frank Vogel
US Economics Correspondent

Washington, April 25—The United States administration fully supports the creation of a new facility to strengthen the financial resources of the International Monetary Fund.

It also supports a substantial rise in IMF member country quotas, but it opposes a new allocation of special drawing rights (SDR) "at this time."

Mr Anthony Solomon, Under Secretary for Monetary Affairs at the United States Treasury, said these would be the main topics of detailed discussion at the meetings here on Thursday of Friday of the IMF's interim committee of finance ministers.

He suggested that final agreements are unlikely this week and he noted that boosting IMF reserves is not a "desperate or urgent" matter.

Mr Solomon told a press conference that the IMF can still draw some SDR 2,500m under the General Arrangements to Borrow and that its resources

will be strengthened by some SDR 5,000m to SDR 6,000m when new quota rises take effect, which is now likely to happen by the end of this year at the latest.

He noted that negotiations on a further quota rise are still at an early stage and must be completed by next February. The minimum proposal made by some countries is for a 20 to 25 per cent quota increase.

Most countries now take the view that a quota rise of 75 to 100 per cent, as suggested by Dr Johannes Witteveen, managing director of the IMF, is more than necessary, while the United States "is open-minded and flexible on this question."

Mr Solomon said a series of international discussions have been taken place on the possibility of a financial support facility for the IMF, as proposed by Dr Witteveen.

The treasury official outlined the main features of the facility that already seem to be widely agreed upon and here, he pointed out, with regard to its size, that "SDR 8,000m to SDR 14,000m is a realistic range in my opinion."

Three held over Swiss bank losses

Zurich, April 25—Three executives of the Chissio, Tessin, subsidiary of the Credit Suisse Bank, were held by police today for alleged involvement in a financial scandal, according to reliable sources.

They said the three men, earlier suspended from their jobs by the bank's central management, were faced with charges of breach of Swiss banking legislation.

Credit Suisse Bank meanwhile issued a statement in which it said money deposited with its Chissio subsidiary had been kept outside the bank's accounts and illegally placed with a Liechtenstein financing company known as Texon, which had invested the funds.

The statement said the Credit Suisse Bank had taken over the assets of some companies in which Texon held a stake. But it neither confirmed nor denied that the fraud involved a total amount of 250m Swiss francs, as reported in informed banking circles here.

In brief Washington forecasts lower growth rate

Washington's Office of Management and Budget has officially confirmed changes in Administration's economic forecasts that government economists have been privately indicating over the last month. The forecasts show that the immediate economic prospects are slightly worse than was predicted officially in early February.

Real gross national product is seen as rising by 4.9 per cent this year (down 0.5 per cent from earlier forecasts) and by 5.6 per cent in 1978 (up 0.2 per cent). Unemployment is seen as averaging 7.2 per cent and 6.4 per cent in 1977 and 1978 respectively, which is a shade higher than earlier forecasts.

Inflation is officially forecast at 6.7 per cent this year and 5.6 per cent next year. The current fiscal year's budget deficit is now set at \$20,000m (about £11,765m) below the February forecast level at \$48,700m.

Shell petrol pump prices up today

Pump prices for Shell petrol are likely to rise between 2.5p and 3.5p a gallon from today following the company's decision to increase wholesale prices from midnight. It is putting an extra 3.1p a gallon on five star petrol which will probably be rounded up to 2.5p a gallon at the pumps with the inclusion of VAT. All other grades will go up by 2.1p a gallon (2.5p at the pump).

Derv prices are going up 2.5p a gallon (plus 8 per cent VAT) and burning oil and gas/diesel oil both of which are used for heating and industrial purposes will go up by 2p a gallon.

Dismissal pay warning

Unfair dismissal awards could cost employers £50m this year it was claimed yesterday. Employers' Protection Insurance, of Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, made the claim when announcing insurance awards made by industrial tribunals and employment appeal tribunals. It also covers conciliation proceedings and legal fees.

Barrow shareholders vote for NEB £3m deal

By Derek Harris
A Barrow Hepburn Group (BHG) shareholders' meeting yesterday agreed to a prospective deal under which the National Enterprise Board plans to give £3m support to the company's tanning interests.

The meeting was held against a background of legal action against the NEB by a group of other tanners which is questioning the legality of the deal.

Now the shareholders have backed the agreement, the NEB would be expected fully to complete its side of the deal by next Monday. This leaves the tanners group with a big decision.

The group has issued an originating summons to seek a declaration from the High Court that the proposed investment is illegal. The NEB has accepted service of the summons and has said it will not complete the agreement with BHG until after Friday.

The group will now have to decide whether to take the main option for delaying the agreement's completion after Monday by seeking an injunction to restrain the NEB's completion.

The group believes the deal, under which the NEB plans to buy for £500,000 half the equity of a new company, British Tanners' Products, would favour the BHG tanning interests incorporated in ETP to the detriment of the rest of the industry.

How the markets moved

The Times index: 173.20-0.50
The FT index: 419.0-3.3

Rises

Farnell Elect 12p to 12½p
Hastemere Est 6p to 6½p
Hays Wat 5p to 5½p
Northwest Holst 11p to 74p

Falls

Allen H & Ross 10p to 39p
Bestobell 6p to 140p
Boat H 8p to 11½p
BP 3p to 3½p
Centre Hotels 8p to 38p
Dunlop 5p to 100p
Equity & Law 5p to 10p
Glasgow 5p to 47½p
Imp Chem Ind 6p to 35p
Killinghall 5p to 160p

Equities drifted back. Gil-edged stocks had a quiet session. Dollar premium 122.0 per cent (effective rate 46.007 per cent). Sterling was 6 p up at \$1.7170. The effective rate was 61.7 per cent.

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THE POUND

Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia S	1.61	1.56
Austria Sch	30.25	28.25
Belgium Fr	61.25	61.25
Canada S	1.84	1.79
Denmark Kr	10.57	10.17
Finland Mk	7.20	6.55
France F	8.75	8.75
Germany Dm	4.23	4.01
Greece Dr	65.00	62.00
Hongkong S	154.00	148.00
Italy L	500.00	475.00
Netherlands Gld	4.41	4.19
Norway Kr	9.54	8.88
Portugal Esc	67.25	64.00
S Africa Rd	2.05	1.90
Spain Pes	121.50	113.50
Sweden S	7.75	7.28
Switzerland Fr	4.50	4.28
US \$	1.76	1.71
Yugoslavia Dnr	34.00	31.75

Notes for small denomination bank notes only. Interbank rates for sterling bank notes only. Interbank rates for sterling bank notes only. Interbank rates for sterling bank notes only.

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Hopes rise for peace talks at Halewood

Hopes of a solution to the 10-day-old strike at Ford's Halewood plant were raised last night after day-long peace talks.

The discussions were adjourned until today after a company spokesman said clarification had been reached on certain points in the dispute procedure which sparked off the stoppage.

The strike has halted all production and cost £6,000 Escorts worth £12m.

It began after 10 craftsmen were suspended for one day for leaving work early without permission.

A company spokesman could not say whether there had been any wider issue of separate negotiations on pay and conditions which is being urged nationally by the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

Only the transmission shop is still working at the Liverpool plant. The gearboxes manufactured there are being stockpiled.

At Jaguar, Leyland has had to lay off more than 5,000 workers in its car assembly and components plants because of a strike by 80 internal road drivers, who are demanding reclassification into a higher pay grade.

At the weekend the striking drivers held a meeting at which they decided to continue their stoppage, but they are to meet again today.

Carter stance upsets British hopes of switch on fibres pact

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent

European hopes of a change in the United States attitude towards the renegotiation of the GATT Multi-Fibre Arrangement were dashed in London yesterday by a senior official of the Carter Administration.

Mr Robert Strauss, special representative for trade negotiations, said: "We seek a renewal without change of the MFA." The agreement was necessary because "if there were nothing how do we go about solving the problem of textile trade?"

In the past few weeks there have been signs, in the face of growing American textile industry and worker concern, that the United States was shifting its ground and would support,

in part, the EEC's attempts to achieve a fundamental renegotiation of the textiles pact.

Meanwhile, strong demands that the Government stand firm on plans to prevent the disruption of the European clothing market by cheap imports were made yesterday by the United Kingdom clothing industry.

The British Clothing Industry Council for Europe called on the Government to take a tough stand in the forthcoming negotiations in Geneva on the arrangement. The arrangement was introduced three years ago to promote the orderly development of trade in textiles between the developed and developing worlds.

Clothing industries throughout Europe and particularly Britain have seen their share of their domestic markets steadily eroded by the inflow

of imports from low cost developing countries.

But in a statement yesterday the organization insisted that the EEC's negotiating mandate at the talks must include proposals to end the danger of cumulative disruption of the EEC clothing market.

At the heart of the industry's concern is the worry that markets for individual products can be disrupted by the large number of suppliers, many of whom may individually supply only relatively small volumes. Under the terms of the present MFA the smaller suppliers cannot be dealt with.

Britain and France have so far taken the lead in insisting that a solution must be found, with broad agreement from most other member states apart from West Germany and Denmark.

Ezra call for flexibility on employee participation

Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the National Coal Board and the British Institute of Management, yesterday urged the Government that employee participation, if it was to be effective, could not be imposed.

Delivering the Standard Telephones and Cables Communications lecture at the Savoy Hotel in London, Sir Derek said that industry should be encouraged to choose from the variety of patterns of employee participation now emerging.

The Bullock report had been published at a time when industry was already making considerable progress in participation arrangements in a variety of ways.

The restrictive terms of reference and conclusions of the Bullock report did not reflect this and that was why the BLM had opted for a flexible solution.

Sir Derek said that his study of the different examples of participation led him to a number of conclusions.

The first point that emerged was the variety of approaches. "It is undoubtedly the case that participation arrangements have been made where they have been carefully and consciously tailored to meet the circumstances of the particular enterprise."

The second point was that the most meaningful forms of participation had been developed at plant level. "The nearer one gets to the workplace, the more effective is the pulling power of involvement."

Interest rates on Industry Act loans reduced

By Malcolm Brown

The maximum rate of interest relief grant and interest rates for loans under section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 were reduced yesterday.

The Department of Industry said that the rate of interest relief grant available in those cases where it would be appropriate to allow the equivalent of an interest free period on a department loan, but where companies obtained their finance from other sources, was to be reduced from 12½ per cent to 9 per cent for each interest free year.

The concessionary rate of interest on loans for employment-creating projects has been reduced from 9½ per cent to 9 per cent while the broadly commercial rate of interest on loans for modernization projects not providing additional employment has been cut from 12½ per cent to 12 per cent.

Depositing on the facilities provided, Series 6000 systems will cost from £100,000 to £500,000, with deliveries expected to begin next November.

Kenneth Owen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sauce for the Japanese goose

From Mr R. A. Ashworth

Sir, Mrs Margaret Thatcher's forthright remarks to her Japanese hosts on the subject of the Anglo-Japanese trade imbalance brought more sharply into focus what has been said by every politician, Department of Trade official and representative of industry to have visited Tokyo over the course of the past seven years. It must, by now, be a rather well-worn record but it would appear that the Japanese still do not recognize the time.

I must, at this point, declare a prejudice as one who has spent over seven years in Japan, primarily associated with the import of British goods into that country. In that period the British community in Tokyo listened as each successive visitor forcibly expressed concern at the continuing trade deficit with Japan and, equally forcibly, rejected any suggestion of unilateral restrictions on the flow of Japanese goods into this country.

The conventional wisdom demanded that we pursue agreements for voluntary restraint and orderly marketing. At the same time, the DTI have offered sterling support to exporters and it is undoubtedly true that, but for such exhortations, the trade gap would have been even larger. Yet at the end of the day we still have a £350m trade deficit and a massive increase in the flow of Japanese goods into this country.

In your edition of March 30 you published a letter signed jointly by Mr Hamish McChie of the DTI's Exports to Japan Unit and Mr Rinoz Tanaka, advising of the services of an Anglo-Japanese export advisory board. While the prospective exporter should obviously avail himself of any assistance he should be fully aware such bodies are, in Japanese eyes, entirely unofficial and serve only as a public relations device to staunch further criticism of Japan's protectionist attitudes.

The trade areas where a significant volume increase in exports could be made—for example, foodstuffs, ethical pharmaceuticals, agricultural chemicals and computers—are all still meticulously protected by a bewildering maze of regulations and registration requirements which virtually force the foreign company into a disadvantageous and frequently unprofitable partnership. Despite Mr Milward's assertions (*The Times*, April 21) there is no way that present practice could be described as "minor" irritants.

I now believe that the most effective way of obliging the Japanese to dismantle their own protective barriers would be to deny them access to our own markets. A clear and undeniable case exists for either the immediate imposition of stringent quotas on all Japanese goods or the levying of draconian levels of import duty. Were the boot on the other foot, the Japanese Government would have no hesitation in taking similar action with the absolute justification that such measures were necessary for the protection of their own industry.

Perhaps Mr Dell might note that what is sauce for the goose is equally nourishing for the gander.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT ASHWORTH,
31 Little Green,
Alverton,
Hampshire,
April 21.

From Mr P. Grey
Sir, I agree with your comment (first leader, April 19) that "in the coming decades our relations with Japan are bound to be closer and to matter even more than our relations with China". In recent years there has been a growth in non-European studies in schools and colleges but, so far, Japan has been largely ignored despite the enormous importance of that country in the world's economy.

In their letter of April 21 Mr Roderick MacFarquhar and Mr John Roper rightly note that it would be to Japan's advantage to promote Japanese studies in Europe as they have in the United States. However, I feel that we in Britain should also make a greater

effort to study what Herman Kahn has aptly called "the emerging Japanese super-power".

Having taught Japanese history for several years now, I have been struck by the interest of students in the subject but, at the same time, I have been dismayed by their almost total lack of initial knowledge of a nation that, like it or not, is playing an increasingly important role in our economic affairs.

Yours faithfully,
PETER GREY,
Senior Lecturer,
School of Humanities,
Bedford College of Higher Education,
Bedford,
April 21.

From Mr R. Storey
Sir, The plea by Messrs MacFarquhar and Roper (April 21), that Japanese businessmen should consider allocating funds for the development of Japanese studies, may have given your readers the impression that, so far as Britain is concerned, the business world in Japan has displayed not the smallest sign of imaginative philanthropy.

This is not so. The Mitsui Company, for example, has in recent years made a number of generous grants to Oxford, Cambridge, Birmingham and other universities for the development of Japanese studies. Moreover, it may not be generally known that, in 1973, the Prime Minister of Japan gave this country, specifically for the promotion of Japanese studies, the sum of £1m. At least a substantial proportion of that sum was raised from business circles in Japan.

It should be pointed out that the Japan Foundation, very active in furthering Japanese studies not only in Britain but also in France and Germany, acquired much of its initial capital thanks to the goodwill of the business world as well as the Japanese Government.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD STOREY,
Far East Centre,
St Antony's College,
Oxford,
April 22.

A free day's work instead of strike?

From Mr P. G. Edwards
Sir, About 10,000 Scottish shipbuilding workers went on a one-day strike on April 19 in protest at "the lack of a national plan" for their industry.

It is also reported that, to combat fears of possible widespread redundancies, ship stewards led by Mr Airlie, of Govan Shipbuilders, are hoping to demonstrate their solidarity by a one-day national strike across the industry, which will probably coincide with Vesting Day, July 1. In public ownership since July, 1972, Govan's losses during 1975 (the last published accounts) were £9,573,000, and total £18,145,000 over the three and a half years for which published accounts are available. How refreshing it would be

if, instead of taking a day off work and walking the streets, shop stewards persuaded their members to work an extra day, half day, or an extra shift, without pay to demonstrate their determination to ensure their industry's survival unscathed in the future, and ultimate prosperity.

Such unprecedented action would transform attitudes within the industry "at a stroke" (pardon the phrase), and would give British shipowners real encouragement to build at home instead of in foreign yards. Furthermore, such an event could be the turning point in our economic fortunes; for by its example it would be of immeasurable benefit to British industry as a whole and would open the eyes of the world, our customers.

Such action would also be worthy of an industry that has a great past and, despite current difficulties, could still have a great future, worthy of the skills and ability of all those employed in it. It would also do more than anything else to reduce the number of possible redundancies.

Have the shop stewards the guts to take up such a challenge? I believe the majority have, and it is up to management to tell them why they should do so.

Yours faithfully,
PETER G. EDWARDS,
Chairman and Managing Director,
Dunfries-Hadfields Ltd.,
Brown-Hadley Steels Ltd.,
East Heda Works, Sheffield S9 1TZ,
April 22.

ICL mid-range sales 'exceed expectations'

Sales of the ICL Model 2960 computer, the medium-sized member of the 2900 family, have "exceeded expectations" since its announcement in March, 1976, the company has reported.

A total of 55 of the 2960 systems together worth £45m have been ordered, of which 14 systems worth £12.5m are for export. Eighteen of the machines, worth £15.5m, are for customers in the public sector.

Among recent 2960 orders are a £750,000 machine for the management services division of Vickers Engineering Group at Newcastle; a £1m unit for Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council; and a £1.1m dual system for NFW Computers, the Manchester stockbroking computer bureau.

To simplify the transition to the Model 2960 for users of earlier ICL computers (1900 series and System 4), the company has introduced new operating software known as Direct

Computer news

Machine Environment (DME).

This enables a 1900 or System 4 user to transfer his workload directly to a 2960 with only minor changes to his programmes.

Other recent ICL developments have involved machines both larger and smaller than the 2960. At the large end of the scale, the European Space Agency has decided to continue using two ICL 2980 computers to handle data from the forthcoming Meteosat weather satellite programme. A switch to IBM equipment had earlier been a possibility.

At the small end, Nouvelles Galeries and Bazar de l'Hotel de Ville, a group of French department stores, has ordered 540 point-of-sale terminals and 19 ICL System Ten computers. These are ex-Singer products

which are now being actively marketed by ICL following its 1976 Singer Business Machines acquisition.

Data Logic expands

In a reorganization designed to handle expanding specialist activities, Data Logic, Greenford, Middlesex, has split its finance division into separate banking and insurance divisions; and has recruited Mr John McNeill to develop three new functions within the company's technical support group.

The software house's three new technical areas are concerned with computer networks, distributed systems and microcomputers. Mr McNeill, formerly with Logica and before that with Seicon, will be concerned with these functions, and will have special responsibility for computer networks.

New Geest service

Geest Computer Services, which operates bureaux in Cambridge, Birmingham and Peter-

borough, is establishing a new business which will provide and install minicomputer-based business systems. This will run in parallel with the bureau.

Mr Charles Cox, managing director of Geest Computer Services, is moving to Cambridge Instrument Company as finance director and deputy chief executive. His role at Geest is being assumed by Mr Philip Wainwright, chief executive of the company.

New Systime model

Systime, Leeds, have announced a more powerful model in the company's range of business computer systems. Known as the Series 6000, it is based on the Digital Equipment PDP 11/60 processor.

Depending on the facilities provided, Series 6000 systems will cost from £100,000 to £500,000, with deliveries expected to begin next November.

Kenneth Owen

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION To the Holders of Queensland Alumina Holdings N.V.

6½% Secured Bonds Due 1982

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the provisions of the Queensland Alumina Holdings N.V. Collateral Trust Indenture dated as of June 1, 1967, as supplemented, U.S. \$800,000 principal amount of the above described Bonds have been selected for redemption on June 1, 1977, in lieu of a redemption for the purpose of the Sinking Fund, at the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest to said date, as follows:

BONDS OF U.S. \$1,000 EACH

5	1232	2518	3085	0051	7712	9012	10335	11719	12019	14195	18094	19201	19999	17812	18290	19122
17	1297	2340	3906	0033	7717	9016	10343	11721	12021	14213	18108	19215	20007	17817	18295	19127
28	1332	2385	3951	0038	7722	9021	10348	11726	12026	14218	18113	19220	20012	17822	18298	19132
39	1367	2430	3996	0043	7727	9026	10353	11731	12031	14223	18118	19225	20017	17827	18303	19137
50	1402	2475	4041	0048	7732	9031	10358	11736	12036	14228	18123	19230	20022	17832	18308	19142
61	1437	2520	4086	0053	7737	9036	10363	11741	12041	14233	18128	19235	20027	17837	18313	19147
72	1472	2565	4131	0058	7742	9041	10368	11746	12046	14238	18133	19240	20032	17842	18318	19152
83	1507	2610	4176	0063	7747	9046	10373	11751	12051	14243	18138	19245	20037	17847	18323	19157
94	1542	2655	4221	0068	7752	9051	10378	11756	12056	14248	18143	19250	20042	17852	18328	19162
105	1577	2700	4266	0073	7757	9056	10383	11761	12061	14253	18148	19255	20047	17857	18333	19167
116	1612	2745	4311	0078	7762	9061	10388	11766	12066	14258	18153	19260	20052	17862	18338	19172
127	1647	2790	4356	0083	7767	9066	10393	11771	12071	14263	18158	19265	20057	17867	18343	19177
138	1682	2835	4401	0088	7772	9071	10398	11776	12076	14268	18163	19270	20062	17872	18348	19182
149	1717	2880	4446	0093	7777	9076	10403	11781	12081	14273	18168	19275	20067	17877	18353	19187
160	1752	2925	4491	0098	7782	9081	10408	11786	12086	14278	18173	19280	20072	17882	18358	19192
171	1787	2970	4536	0103	7787	9086	10413	11791	12091	14283	18178	19285	20077	17887	18363	19197
182	1822	3015	4581	0108	7792	9091	10418	11796	12096	14288	18183	19290	20082	17892	18368	19202
193	1857	3060	4626	0113	7797	9096	10423	11801	12101	14293	18188	19295	20087	17897	18373	19207
204	1892	3105	4671	0118	7802	9101	10428	11806	12106	14298	18193	19300	20092	17902	18378	19212
215	1927	3150	4716	0123	7807	9106	10433	11811	12111	14303	18198	19305	20097	17907	18383	19217
226	1962	3195	4761	0128	7812	9111	10438	11816	12116	14308	18203	19310	20102	17912	18388	19222
237	1997	3240	4806	0133	7817	9116	10443	11821	12121	14313	18208	19315	20107	17917	18393	19227
248	2032	3285	4851	0138	7822	9121	10448	11826	12126	14318	18213	19320	20112	17922	18398	19232
259	2067	3330	4896	0143	7827	9126	10453	11831	12131	14323	18218	19325	20117	17927	18403	19237
270	2102	3375	4941	0148	7832	9131	10458	11836	12136	14328	18223	19330	20122	17932	18408	19242
281	2137	3420	4986	0153	7837	9136	10463	11841	12141	14333	18228	19335	20127	17937	18413	19247
292	2172	3465	5031	0158	7842	9141	10468	11846	12146	14338	18233	19340	20132	17942	18418	19252
303	2207	3510	5076	0163	7847	9146	10473	11851	12151	14343	18238	19345	20137	17947	18423	19257
314	2242	3555	5121	0168	7852	9151	10478	11856	12156	14348	18243	19350	20142	17952	18428	19262
325	2277	3600	5166	0173	7857	9156	10483	11861	12161	14353	18248	19355	20147	17957	18433	19267
336	2312	3645	5211	0178	7862	9161	10488	11866	12166	14358	18253	19360	20152	17962	18438	19272
347	2347	3690	5256	0183	7867	9166	10493	11871	12171	14363	18258	19365	20157	17967	18443	19277
358	2382	3735	5301	0188	7872	9171	10498	11876	12176	14368	18263	19370	20162	17972	18448	19282
369	2417	3780	5346	0193	7877	9176	10503	11881	12181	14373	18268	19375	20167	17977	18453	19287
380	2452	3825	5391	0198	7882	9181	10508	11886	12186	14378	18273	19380	20172	17982	18458	19292
391	2487	3870	5436	0203	7887	9186	10513	11891	12191	14383	18278	19385	20177	17987	18463	19297
402	2522	3915	5481	0208	7892	9191	10518	11896	12196	14388	18283	19390	20182	17992	18468	19302
413	2557	3960	5536	0213	7897	9196	10523	11901	12201	14393	18288	19395	20187	17997	18473	19307
424	2592	4005	5581	0218	7902	9201	10528	11906	12206	14398	18293	19400	20192	18002	18478	19312
435	2627	4050	5636	0223	7907	9206	10533	11911	12211	14403	18298	19405	20197	18007	18483	19317
446	2662	4095	5681	0228	7912	9211	10538	11916	12216	14408	18303	19410	20202	18012	18488	19322
457	2697	4140	5736	0233	7917	9216	10543	11921	12221	14413	18308	19415	20207	18017	18493	19327
468	2732	4185	5781	0238	7922	9221	10548	11926	12226	14418	18313	19420	20212	18022	18498	19332
479	2767	4230	5836	0243	7927	9226	10553	11931	12231	14423	18318	19425	20217	18027	18503	19337
490	2802	4275	5881	0248	7932	9231	10558	11936	12236	14428	18323	19430	20222	18032	18508	19342
501	2837	4320	5936	0253	7937	9236	10563	11941	12241	14433	18328	19435	20227	18037	18513	19347
512	2872	4365	5981	0258	7942	9241	10568	11946	12246	14438	18333	19440	20232	18042	18518	19352
523	2907	4410	6036	0263	7947	9246	10573	11951	12251	14443	18338	19445	20237	18047	18523	19357
534	2942	4455	6081	0268	7952	9251	10578	11956	12256	14448	18343	19450	20242	18052	18528	19362
545	2977	4500	6136	0273	7957	9256	10583	11961	12261	14453	18348	19455	20247	18057	18533	19367
556	3012	4545	6181	0278	7962	9261	10588	11966	12266	14458	18353	19460	20252	18062	18538	19372
567	3047	4590	6236	0283	7967	9266	10593	11971	12271	14463	18358	19465	20257	18067	18543	19377
578	3082	4635	6281	0288	7972	9271	10598	11976	12276	14468	18363	19470	20262	18072	18548	19382
589	3117	4680	6336	0293	7977	9276	10603	11981	12281	14473	18368	19475	20267	18077	18553	19387
600	3152	4725	6381	0298	7982	9281	10608	11986	12286	14478	18373	19480	20272	18082	18558	19392
611	3187	4770	6436	0303	7987	9286	10613	11991	12291	14483	18378	19485	20277	18087	18563	19397
622	3222	4815	6481	0308	7992	9291	10618	11996	12296	14488	18383	19490	20282	18092	18568	19402
633	3257	4860	6536	0313	7997	9296	10623	11999	12301	14493	18388	19495	20287	18097	18573	19407
644	3292	4905	6581	0318	8002	9301	10628	12004	12306	14498	18393	19500	20292	18102	18578	19412
655	3327	4950	6636	0323	8007	9306	10633	12009	12311	14503	18398	19505	20297	18107	18583	19417
666	3362	4995	6681	0328	8012	9311	10638	12014	12316	14508	18403	19510	20302	18112	18588	19422
677	3397	5040	6736	0333	8017	9316	10643	12019	12321	14513	18408	19515	20307	18117	18593	19427
688	3432	5085	6781	0338	8022	9321	10648	12024	12326	14518	18413	19520	20312	18122	18598	19432
699	3467	5130	6836	0343	8027	9326	10653	12029	12331	14523	18418	19525	20317	18127	18603	19437
710	3502	5175	6881	0348	8032	9331	10658	12034	12336	14528	18423	19530	20322	18132	18608	19442
721	3537	5220	6936	0353	8037	9336	10663	12039	12341	14533	18428	19535	20327	18137	18613	19447
732	3572	5265	6981	0358	8042	9341	10668	12044	12346	14538	18433	19540	20332	18142	18618	19452
743	3607	5310	7036	0363	8047	9346	10673	12049	12351	14543	18438	19545	20337	18147	18623	19457
754	3642	5355	7081	0368	8052	9351	10678	12054	12356	14548	18443	19550	20342	18152	18628	19462
765	3677	5400	7136	0373	8057	9356	10683	12059	12361	14553	18448	19555	20347	18157	18633	19467
776	3712	5445	7181	0378	8062	9361	10688	12064	12366	14558	18453	19560	20352	18162	18638	19472
787	3747	5490	7236	0383	8067	9366	10693	12069	12371	14563	18458	19565	20357	18167	18643	19477
798	3782	5535	7281	0388	8072	9371	10698	12074	12376	14568	18463	19570	20362	18172	18648	19482
809	3817	5580	7336	0393	8077	9376	10703	12079	12381	14573	18468	19575	20367	18177	18653	19487
820	3852	5625	7381	0398	8082	9381	10708	12084	12386	14578	18					



National Westminster Bank

Rate changes

NatWest announces that with effect from Tuesday, 26th April, 1977, its Base Rate is reduced from 9½% to 9% per annum.

Its Deposit Rate on all amounts lodged subject to seven days' notice of withdrawal is 4½% per annum. Savings Accounts will now attract interest at 4½% per annum. All other rates remain unchanged.



The Royal Bank of Scotland INTEREST RATES

The Royal Bank of Scotland Limited announces that with effect from 26th April, 1977, its Base Rate for lending is being reduced from 9½% per annum to 9% per annum.

The maximum rate of interest allowed on Deposits lodged for a minimum period of seven days or subject to seven days' notice of withdrawal at the London Offices of the Bank will be reduced to 4½% per annum.

The Royal Bank of Scotland Limited, Head Office, 20, Box 31, 42 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, EH2 2YE.

Williams & Glyn's

announces that the following rates will apply from and including Tuesday 26th April

Base rate..... 9% p.a.
Deposit rate..... 4½% p.a.

WILLIAMS & GLYN'S BANK LTD

Midland Bank Base Rate

Midland Bank Limited announces that with effect from Tuesday April 26th 1977, its Base Rate is reduced by ½% to 9% per annum.

Deposit Accounts. Interest paid on accounts held at branches and subject to 7 days notice of withdrawal is 4½% per annum.



Midland Bank

Business appointments

New F H Lloyd Holdings director

Mr R. G. Middleton has been made a director of F. H. Lloyd Holdings.

Mr R. K. Watson, deputy chairman of Scottish Life Assurance, is to become chairman in succession to Mr P. W. Turcan, who is retiring but who will remain on the board.

Mr G. T. Geddes, Mr D. W. T. Mackenzie and Mr R. B. Perry are now directors of Hogg Robinson Group.

Mr Stanley Arthur Ford has become technical director of Ransomes & Rapier, with board level responsibilities for all engineering design, development and quality assurance functions at their three manufacturing facilities at Ipswich, Sheffield and Ossett.

Anglesey Aluminium announce the following management appointments. Mr J. D. Hamilton, previously production director, managing director; Mr J. E. Jones, previously administrative director, deputy managing director; Mr W. O. D. Eadie becomes financial director. Mr E. H. Sangwine, previously managing director, is returning to the United States. He will, however, retain connections with Anglesey Aluminium and has been made deputy chairman.

Mr R. W. S. Plumley has succeeded Mr C. D. Alexander as chairman of Jamaica Sugar Estates. Mr Hugh Hart becomes deputy chairman.

Mr D. G. Jefferies will be director of personnel management

of the Central Electricity Generating Board from May 1. He succeeds Mr C. N. Stone, who has been made director-general of the board's south-eastern region.

Mr G. F. Humm has been made chairman of the Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society.

Mr C. W. Thomson has become commercial director of GEC Computers.

Mr F. W. Knight, group managing director United Kingdom for Bristol-Myers becomes territorial director United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland.



Mr R. K. Watson, who is to become the new chairman of Scottish Life Assurance.

Mr John Searson has been made chairman and financial director of Bickels Signs.

Mr E. Lea has been made financial controller of BICC Industrial Products. Mr D. Henderson takes up a similar post with BICC Cable.

Mr John Payne has become managing director of Access Equipment, succeeding Dr Bruce Whitwell, who remains a director.

Mr J. L. D. Galley has been made managing director of Eldridge & Lewis Cranes. Mr E. C. Soukup continues as chairman and chief executive.

Mr G. R. W. Dalgleish has been appointed a director of Higgs and Hill Overseas. He is resigning as a director of Higgs and Hill Northern. Mr L. Stoller has been made managing director of Higgs and Hill Northern. Mr N. L. C. Lambert, Mr I. R. Newton and Mr T. Taylor join the board.

Standard Chartered

announce that on and after the 26th April, 1977

the following annual rates will apply

Base rate 9%

Deposit rate 4½%



Standard Chartered Bank Limited

Barclays Bank Base Rate

With effect from the close of business on 26th April, 1977, our Base Rate will be decreased from 9½% to 9% per annum. The basic interest rate for deposits will be decreased by ½% from 5% to 4½% per annum.

Barclays Bank Limited
Barclays Bank Trust Company Limited
Barclays Bank International Limited

BARCLAYS

Reg. Office: 54 Lombard Street, EC3P 3AH
Reg. No's 48839, 92886 and 102627.

Lloyds Bank Base Rate

Lloyds Bank announces that, with effect from Tuesday, April 26th, 1977, its Base Rate for lending is reduced to 9%. The rate of interest on 7-day notice Deposit accounts and Savings Bank accounts will be 4½%, a decrease of ½%.



Coutts & Co. announce that their Base Rate for lending will be reduced from 9½% to 9% per annum for balances in their books on and after 26th April, 1977 and until further notice.

The Deposit Rate on monies subject to seven days' notice of withdrawal will be reduced from 5% to 4½% per annum.

ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

NOTICE TO MEMBERS
Notice is hereby given that the 26th annual general meeting of members of Anglo American Corporation of South Africa Limited will be held at 44 Main Street, Johannesburg on Wednesday, May 10, 1977, at 11:00 for the following business:

- To receive and consider the annual financial statements in respect of the year ended December 31, 1976.
- To elect directors in accordance with the provisions of the Corporation's articles of association.
- To consider and if deemed fit to pass with or without modification, the following resolution as an ordinary resolution, namely: That the directors be and they are hereby authorised: (a) To allot and issue, after providing for the allotment and issue of the ordinary shares in terms of the share incentive scheme, the staff share option scheme and any shares which shall have been set aside for allotment in substitution for shares in Rand Selection Corporation Limited arising on conversion of Bonds of US \$100,000, all or any portion of the remaining unissued ordinary shares of 10 cents each in the capital of the Corporation at such time or times to such person or persons, company or companies, and upon such terms and conditions as they may determine.

- To make arrangements on such terms and conditions as they may deem fit for the subscription by underwriters of: (a) Any shares offered by way of rights issues but not taken up by the persons entitled thereto; and (b) Any shares resulting from the consolidation of any fractional entitlements in respect of any shares issued in pursuance of a rights issue, provided that any rights to such shares which can be sold in full-paid form on the Johannesburg and/or London Stock Exchanges during the period which they are quoted on such stock exchanges may be sold by the underwriters, and the net proceeds of any sale of such rights shall be paid to the Corporation.

Holders of shares warrants to bearer who are desirous of attending in person or by proxy or of voting at any general meeting of the Corporation must comply with the regulations of the Corporation under which share warrants to bearer are issued. A member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his stead. A proxy need not be a member of the Corporation.

By order of the Managing Secretary
Registered Office: Johannesburg 2001 April 25, 1977

Europa

Investment in mines continues to rise

Consumers lag behind nations in support for coal industry

The oil crisis of the winter of 1973/74 led to a significant improvement in the value of European coal reserves.

Investment per ton of output increased in all European coal-producing countries. Where England, for example, only invested 142 units of account (UA) per ton of output in 1972, capital expenditure had risen to 278 UA by 1975. In West Germany investment in coal more than doubled, rising from 0.71 to 1.72 UA; the actual figures are available for 1976 and show that DM 867m (about £165m) was invested in coal mining; this compares with DM 673m in 1975.

Even the "lesser" coal producers like France and Belgium support their mining industries financially: in France investment per tonne increased from 0.53 UA in 1972 to 1.35 UA in 1975, and investment in Belgium from 0.81 UA to 1.07 UA over the same period.

This readiness of the producers and politicians to fight back at oil with domestic energy sources was not, however, supported by the consumers. European production by the Nine did admittedly rise from 243 million tonnes in 1974 to 257 million tonnes in 1975, but stocks rose from 11 to 26 million tonnes.

In 1976 production fell back in the individual countries: from 99 to 96 million tonnes in West Germany, from 22.4 to 21.9 million tonnes in France, from 7.5 to 7.2 million tonnes in Belgium, and from 128 to

122 million tonnes in the United Kingdom.

Production in The Netherlands was discontinued in 1975, and in Italy and Eire there are only some 200 men producing 50,000 tonnes a year in each country.

When looking at the volume of investment in coal mining in Europe, it must be remembered that, under the so-called Brussels guidelines—to which the United Kingdom will also be subscribing in future—major capital expenditure may have the same effect as investment and still not have to be shown in the balance-sheet as such; that is, it can be included under "Other Expenditure" in the balance-sheet and duly deducted from profits before tax.

As a result of changes in this sort of expenditure (for example for extending pits, shoring and track) of the nature of an investment accounts for roughly 60 per cent of the actual investment.

In Europe the coal-mining industry is not just affected by the poor economic climate: the producers are worried that, despite the slump in demand, European Community imports of coal from other countries rose from 38 million tonnes in 1974 to 41 million tonnes in 1975. Movements of coal inside the Community decreased from about 20 to 16.6 million tonnes, with Germany responsible for 13 million tonnes as against 16 million tonnes in the previous year.

The Community cannot even justify itself with its exports of coal for these increased im-

ports: to the contrary, exports fell from 20.4 to 17.3 million tonnes, leading to an increase in the "trade deficit" in coal from 36 to 39.7 million tonnes.

Electricity generation and iron and steel production are the mainstays of the European coal-mining industry, but it was exactly the slump in the steel market that hit the mining industry. In 1974 European furnaces consumed 94.6 million tonnes of coking coal; in 1975 this was down to 76 million tonnes, and 1976 saw no revival in demand.

The impact of the economic situation was less noticeable in the electricity generation industry; here the demand for coal only declined slightly from 276 to 272 million tonnes.

This meant that the share of coal in primary fuel input for electricity generation fell further to 27.9 per cent (in 1971 coal still had a share of 36.1 per cent).

Coal's share in electricity production in West Germany is 24.7 per cent, below the average for the Community. In France it is only 16.4 per cent.

By contrast, energy policy in the United Kingdom favours a greater share for coal in electricity production, and this has accordingly risen from 57.1 to 62.4 per cent.

Italy is not a coal producer, and it is not surprising that the share of coal in primary fuels in electricity generation is only 1.2 per cent; but even here it was still 3 per cent in 1971.

Hans Baumann

LONDON BRICK COMPANY LIMITED

Sir Ronald Stewart, Bt., Announces Record Results and Comments on Monopolies Commission Report

The following are extracts from the circulated statement of the Chairman, Sir Ronald Stewart, Bt., for the year ended 31st December 1976:

FINANCIAL Profits for 1976 were in excess of those of the previous year and established a new record for the Group. Turnover increased from £68,964,000 to £78,580,000, and for the first time the value of export sales exceeded £1,000,000. Profits before charging depreciation amounted to £12,141,000, compared with £11,340,000 for the previous year. After charging depreciation of £1,620,000 compared with £1,548,000, the profit before taxation was £10,521,000 compared with £9,791,000. After providing corporation tax at 52% the profits after taxation amounted to £5,196,000 compared with £4,805,000 for the previous year.

A provision of £900,000 has been made against the cost of investments held by the Group.

An interim dividend of 1.1323p per Ordinary Stock unit of 25p has been paid and a final dividend for the year of 1.7576p is recommended. The total dividend of 2.8899p is the maximum permitted by the Treasury. The retained profit for the year amounted to £2,581,000 and has been transferred to reserves.

TRADING YEAR Profits were hit by a combination of bad weather and the damaging effect of Government measures on housebuilding in the closing months of the year. Once again our main market was hit by cuts in Government spending in the public sector combined with the damaging effect of high interest rates in the private sector and the stability for which the industry craves was once again denied us. Our vulnerability as a process industry to the cyclical nature of construction in this country is by now well known and has led us in recent years both to broaden our base in this country and to seek new markets overseas.

BRICK PRODUCTION The Monopolies Commission Report which came out in the summer of 1976 stated that the Company's monopoly position in fletton brickmaking was not deliberately sought and was the natural result of London Brick's greater efficiency in fletton brickmaking. The Commission was in fact obviously impressed by the Company's experience and skill in the manufacture of fletton bricks and by the steps it had taken both to build new works and to bring the efficiency of works it had acquired up to its own overall standard of efficiency. They noted, however, that the Company had quite understandably kept in production older and higher cost works and that these had acted as a valuable buffer against the vagaries of the building cycle. After thoroughly examining the Company's record of investment in replacement plant and in evaluating the economics of building new works against maintaining existing plant, the Commission recorded that they saw no grounds for criticism of the Company's recent investment performance or its current strategy.

BRICK DEMAND The overall figure of 326,000 houses started in 1976, whilst much the same in total to the previous year, masks a continuing rise in starts in the first half of the year, followed by a fall which gained momentum as the year progressed. As the Monopolies Commission pointed out, the brick industry has suffered perhaps more than any other producer of building materials from fluctuations in construction activity. It pointed out that such fluctuations create additional costs and increase the risks of investment and concluded significantly "there are no remedies short of a more stable climate for the industry for which Government has a special degree of responsibility."

PRICES During 1976 the average delivered cost of fletton bricks rose by seventeen per cent. The Monopolies Commission, judging the London Brick price record over a twenty-year period, noted that the Company sought to achieve its profit objectives by increasing the volume and efficiency

of its production rather than by raising prices and concluded that the Company had at no time exploited its monopoly position to charge excessive prices.

DISTRIBUTION The Monopolies Commission with one dissentient criticised the Company for seeking a lower margin on bricks delivered longer distances from the works than those delivered nearer home. For many years the Company has done this, both to level out prices to customers throughout the country and to try to achieve the greatest economy of scale. The Commission criticised the Company not because of any adverse effect on the customer, but because they believed it constituted unfair competition against the Company's competitors. The adoption of the Commission's recommendation will only have a marginal effect on the Company's sales at distant points and is unimportant commercially.

BRICK BANK The suggestion of a "brick bank" originally proposed by the Trade Unions whereby Government might help the brick industry to finance a higher level of stock and thus help to preserve employment at times of low demand was considered by the Monopolies Commission to be worthy of closer study by Government. To our mind it treats the symptom rather than the disease and Government would be better employed as the largest client of the building industry in seeking to provide some greater continuity and stability in its demands on the industry rather than in seeking to ameliorate the ill effects of the present instability.

PROFITABILITY The Monopolies Commission report showed that in terms of capital employed at no time over the last twenty years had the return exceeded 30% and that the average level of Group profit had been 23%. They concluded that the Company had not used its monopoly position to make excessive profit out of fletton brickmaking.

LONDON BRICK BUILDINGS During the year the sales of the different companies within London Brick Buildings was to a larger or lesser extent affected by the growing squeeze on disposable incomes. Hardest hit were perhaps those whose products involved substantial outlay to the householder. There was a reduction in demand for garages, home extensions and fencing, but the high cost of food in the shops helped to maintain the demand for greenhouses and Alton with its unique position in this market made a substantial contribution to Group profit.

OVERSEAS ACTIVITIES Once again there was a dramatic increase in export sales and whilst this still only represents a fraction of total turnover it does represent a conscious effort on behalf of management to extend overseas activities. The new brick factory at Tehran will come on stream in the autumn of this year and will be the first plant abroad to use the London Brick system of manufacture. Although London Brick Buildings' overseas activities are obviously on a smaller scale they are widespread and are rapidly expanding.

PROSPECTS Trading in the opening weeks of the current year has been at a depressed level. Brick deliveries have been adversely affected both by the waterlogged condition of building sites and by the poor demand for new building.

The continuing fall in Minimum Lending Rate and the consequent improvement in the flow of funds into the building societies gives us reason to hope that the climate for private housebuilding is now improving and that this will in due course be reflected in an improvement in private housing starts.

The acquisition of The Croyder Company, who manufacture a wide range of products for the home and garden, will further reduce the Company's dependence on the cyclical nature of new house-building and will broaden the service we can provide to the individual householder.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

هكنا من النحل

Winn goes up 29pc to top £1m for first time

By Tony May

A strong second-half has taken pre-tax profits of Winn Industries over the £1m mark for the first time. On turnover 5 per cent up at £18.6m pre-tax profits for 1976 jumped 29 per cent to a record £1.13m. This indicates a rise in margins from 5 to 6.1 per cent.

After debiting £9,000 of extraordinary items, retained profits are £222,000, against £12,000. On this the dividend is being raised from 3.49p to 3.85p gross, while earnings a share are 4.7p against 4.3p.

At midday, the group, which recently sold its 22 per cent stake in Mann & Overton, the tinsmith group, reported a record pre-tax profit of £432,000. The group managed to raise its turnover from £8.58m to £8.87m despite sharply increased costs. On the whole, the group was trading well, but some subsidiaries were under-trading.

The second-half saw profits jump 45 per cent to £635,000, reflecting the tighter rein now being kept on the group—which these days is mainly interested in building and engineering. Bank borrowings are soon expected to be nil, and investment is very much in the board's mind.

Sterling fall put Chrysler adrift of forecast

By Victor Felstead

Sales of Chrysler United Kingdom contracting from £331.2m to £331.57m, in 1976, it reports an operating loss, before interest and tax, up from £25.14m to £32.71m. There was a loss, after all charges, of £42.89m, against £35.51m, before the Government grant of £41.5m. So the net loss was cut to £1.39m, against £35.51m.

Meanwhile all of the programmes involved in the reorganization of manufacturing and assembly facilities have either been completed or are on schedule.

The company spent £13.6m on facilities, buildings, plant, equipment and tooling in 1976. This major restructuring programme limited production of vehicles last year, which lowered the company's sales potential.

Chrysler's loss is slightly higher than expected at the time of the agreement with the Government. But it was caused mainly by the deterioration in sterling. The effect of this was £4.9m, so Chrysler would have operated within its original forecast for 1976, but for sterling weakness.

Stock markets

Equities drift back from firm start

The new account for away to a subdued start as pay doubts continued to outweigh the incentive of still lower interest rates. Not even the expected round of base rate cuts from the clearing banks was able to stimulate much interest and the FT Index, 1.2 ahead at 10 am, drifted

also rising by the same amount. There were also strong rises from Hammersmith "A", 7p to 410p, Haslemere, 6p to 182p, and Bernard Sumner, 5p to 155p. The Elafisk well blow-out served to depress oil shares, particularly Petrofina which owns around 30 per cent of the consortium and which closed 12.50 lower at £101.50, BP lost 14p to 910p, Shell, 8p to 508p, and IC Gas was off 15p.

On the electrical pitch, Reynolds Parsons traded at 168p against a background of conjecture that the Parsons company will be sold off to GEC, off a penny at 173p.

Greenwells have produced a study of the turbine generator industry.

Hawker Siddeley continued to gain ground in engineers with a rise of 6p to 564p. Comment helped United Wire to a 5p jump to 64p and figures from Simco had the shares 4p to the good at 166p. Others to attract support were Laird Group, 4p to 581p, and Herbert Morris, 5p to 292p.

In the shipping sector, Common Brothers, a recent spec-

ulative favourite, fell 13p to 283p as profits were taken. But hopes of a bid had Swan Hunter 5p up to 119p and British & Commonwealth 2p ahead at 287p, both being major shareholders. Elsewhere in shipping, Hunting Gibson continued its recent strength with another 5p rise to 185p.

Buildings had laing ordinary and "A" shares both 2p lower at 92p after figures which, although better than most estimates, showed a worsening of the overseas side. Ahead of its statement later this week, Wimpey eased 11p to 57p. Dealers are looking for profits of £38m, against £35.4m.

Hotels continued to attract demand in a sector which is rife with bid rumours. The best were Rownton, up 12p to 122p, and Trust Houses Forte where the gain was 3p to 147p. Profit-taking clipped 8p from Centre Hotels at 38p.

Among the speculative stocks, Gallenamp "A" 1p to 26p and United Scientific 6p to 20p continued to go ahead but Gill & Duffus, where final figures are due on Friday, lost 5p to 223p.

The base rate cuts did little for the clearing banks with Barclays shedding 5p to 245p, National Westminster 3p to 225p, Midland 2p to 280p and Lloyds at an unchanged 210p. Firmer spots in the sector were to be found in Smith St Aubyn 2p to 70p, Kleinwort Benson 2p to 85p and Arbuthnot Latham 2p to 120p.

The annual report lowered Sun Alliance 8p to 407p but some of the brokers closed a

Dealers are looking for full-year profits of around £43m, against £49m, from Sir Charles Clere's Sears Holdings. A better-than-expected return from United Kingdom shoe retailing should help to lessen the impact of losses in the United States. The group is thought to have done particularly well immediately before the December mini-Budget. The shares held steady at 40p.

shade firmer. RTZ traded at 237p after exemption from dividend controls. At its best it touched 244p. News that BPC had sold its stake had Marshall Cavendish 4p ahead at 47p and retailer Nurdin & Peacock added 3p to 125p.

Equity turnover on April 22 was £79.97m (17,859 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, BP, Shell, GKN new, BAT, Dtd, GKN, Barclays, Courtauld, Marks & Spencer, ICI Gas, Swan Hunter, Hay's Wharf, Reynolds Parsons, GEC, GMI, Farnell Electronic, United Wire and United Scientific.

Latest dividends

Company (and par value)	Div	Year	Pay date	Year	Prev year
William Walpole (10p) Fin	2.7	3.5	5.7	8.2	7.4
Brooks Watson (20p) Fin	1.3	1.04	—	1.22	1.04
BSG Int Fin	1.13	0.32	—	1.62	0.65
Chorley Ltd (10p) Fin	1.23	1.6	16.6	2.93	2.66
Parnell Elec (20p) Fin	2.43	2.21	1.7	3.82	2.68
John Laing (25p) Fin	2.67	0.8	—	2.82	1.47
Mandera (10p) Fin	1.52	1.22	15.6	2.27	2.06
R.T.Z. (20p) Fin	4.82	3.78	24.5	8.9	5.37
Silhouette (10p) Fin	2.5	2.2	—	3.21	2.92
Simon Eng (25p) Fin	4.52	4.13	1.7	6.95	6.32
Winn Inds Fin	1.46	1.3	—	2.5	2.37

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pounds per share. Dividends in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.34. * Adjusted for scrip.

ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED ("AAC")

RAND SELECTION CORPORATION LIMITED ("RAND SELECTION")

MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION

At the meeting of shareholders of Rand Selection held on 25th April, 1977 the special resolution for the reduction of capital of Rand Selection to give effect to the merger of AAC and Rand Selection whereby Rand Selection will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of AAC, was approved. In addition the resolutions relating to the conversion of portion of the preference shares of Rand Selection into ordinary shares capital of Rand Selection were approved. The necessary increase of ordinary share capital of AAC to effect the merger was approved at a meeting of shareholders of AAC held on the same day.

Application will be made by Rand Selection to the Supreme Court of South Africa (Whitehead Local Division) on 3rd May, 1977 to confirm the reduction of capital of Rand Selection to give effect to the merger. If on that day the Supreme Court of South Africa confirms the reduction of Rand Selection's share capital, then the status of the merger will be deemed to be effected in the circular to shareholders, namely:

(a) THE RECORD DATE, i.e. the last day for Rand Selection shareholders to register for purposes of the merger will be 8th May, 1977.

(b) THE OPERATIVE DATE, i.e. the date on which—
(i) the merger will become operative; and
(ii) the listing on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange and the Stock Exchange in London for the new AAC ordinary shares allotted to give effect to the merger will commence, will be 8th May, 1977.

Rand Selection shareholders will be informed of any change in either of these dates.

AAC and Rand Selection (where the Rand Selection share certificates, or other documents of title, are surrendered before the operative date) will be issued on 27th May, 1977.

The rights of ordinary shares in Rand Selection to give effect to the merger is confirmed by the Court. AAC proposes to make an offer to Rand Selection on behalf of the subscribers to the rights of allotment and issue to three ordinary shares in AAC in consideration for the cancellation of their rights to receive each Rand Selection ordinary share subscribed. Rand Selection is authorised to undertake to accept such offer on behalf of all the subscribers. Such AAC ordinary shares will not qualify for a proposed special dividend of 8.25 cents per share to be declared by AAC to its ordinary shareholders registered on 8th May, 1977 ("the record date"). An announcement to be made on 8th May, 1977 will give particulars of this special dividend and confirmation of the record date.

London Office, JOHANNESBURG
25th April, 1977
40 Holborn Viaduct, EC1P 1AJ.

TI's business strategies are coming through in profits

In his statement to shareholders the TI Chairman, Mr. Brian Kellert, says: "We are now beginning to see the fruits of deliberate strategies over recent years aimed at much improved performance. The results of our efforts have so far come through most strongly in the Steel Tube and Aluminium Divisions". In other areas "much of the groundwork has been done and we are confident that we are now moving strongly in the right direction. We have a range of basically sound businesses making products people want and are likely to go on wanting".

Despite the continuing recession in the UK and in many overseas markets, the value of TI's sales increased by 10% in 1976 to £710 million, while profit before tax rose 17% to £49.6 million. Although the seasonal rate of profits is normally higher towards the end of the year, it is notable that in 1976 £31.1 million of the profits were earned in the second half. This performance represents considerable progress in a number of TI's key business areas.

Progress in the Divisions

The Steel Tube Division had a good year. The substantial capital expenditure over recent years at the major seamless tubemaking plants of TI Weldless and TI Desford and on gas cylinder manufacture at TI Chesterfield has proved very successful. Effective operation of these capital-intensive plants requires an assured supply of consistently high quality steel. For this reason TI has backed the continuous casting scheme at Round Oak Steel Works, jointly owned with the British Steel Corporation; steel from the new unit is now being processed in the tube works with excellent results.

The Cycle Division recovered well in 1976. Its world wide spread of business enabled the effects of the collapse of the USA market to be offset by increased sales in other markets, particularly Nigeria. Substantial sums have been committed to two expenditure schemes at Sturmer Archer and Cox of Watford to improve plant layout and productivity.

The Domestic Appliance Division had a difficult year as a result of the low UK demand for consumer durables. Reorganisation programmes have now brought capacity in all the Division's significant products into proper relationship with prospective demand, while extensive plant re-equipment programmes are beginning to show results. Improved prospects for 1977 are evident.

In the Engineering Division, Crane Packing maintained its excellent performance. The Transport Equipment companies made good progress, demand for their products being related to the steadily increasing vehicle population rather than to the vehicle manufacturing sector.

1976 was a year of low demand for machine tools. Numerically controlled machines are, however, seen to have great growth potential for Machine Division. An important re-equipment programme has been put in hand at Charles Churchill.

Divisional Sales and Profit Before Loan Interest		
£ million	Sales	Profit
Steel Tube	231.5	26.6
Cycle	107.9	6.1
Domestic Appliance	114.1	1.0
Engineering	60.6	3.7
Machine	41.9	0.8
Industrial Electrical	15.5	0.5
Allen West & Simplex-GE	29.7	2.8
Consumer Finance	3.4	1.4
Overseas	111.8	7.9
Service and other companies	—	(0.3)
Aluminium: Proportion of BA Group profit before tax attributable to TI	—	6.4
	716.4	56.9

Industrial Electrical Division maintained its profits, despite its close dependence on the currently depressed construction industry. Allen West & Simplex-GE Division, which acquired Wallacetown in 1975, has successfully extended the flameproof component business, which is well equipped to meet increasing demands for coal-mining equipment.

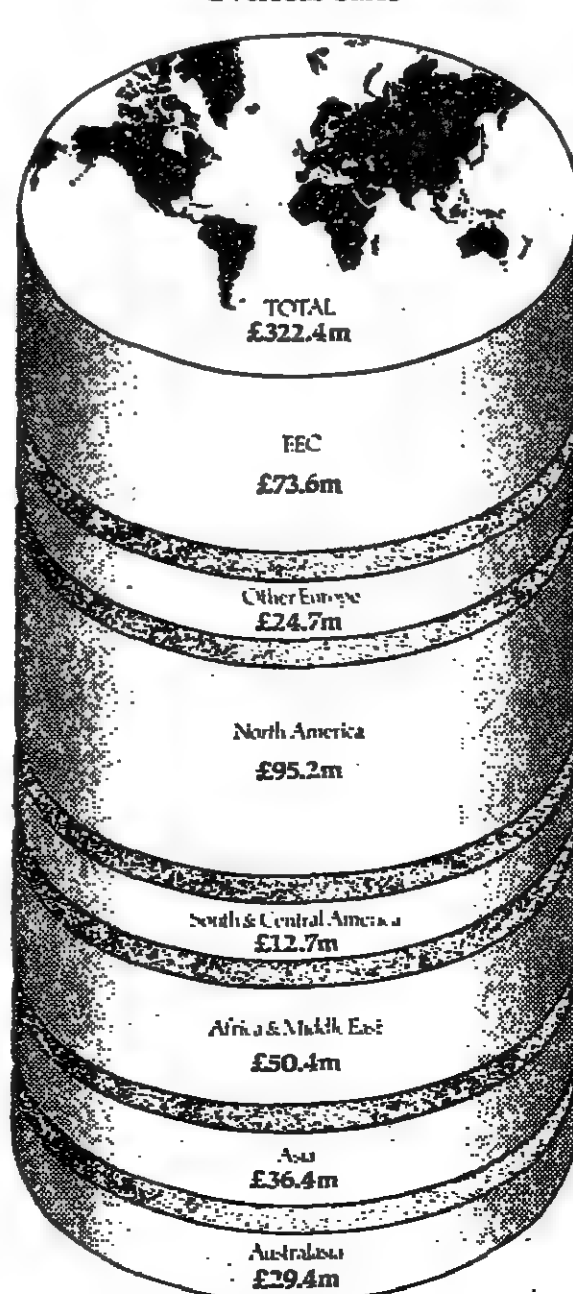
British Aluminium achieved a substantial expansion in profits as the result of a comprehensive business strategy following up the commissioning of the Invergordon smelter.

TI's spread of business

TI's business is spread between the UK and overseas markets, and between capital and consumer goods. Much of the credit for the increase in sales in 1976 is due to overseas business, both locally by the Group's overseas subsidiaries, and from exports from the UK based companies.

Sales to overseas customers rose by £62 million to £322 million, an increase of 24%. TI's overseas spread is shown on the diagram below and illustrates the continuing importance of North America and the BEC. Of the Group's total sales, 45% now come from overseas or export business.

Geographical Distribution of Overseas Sales



TI Group

AAC faces heavier tax on gold profits

By Ray Maughan

Anglo American Corporation of South Africa, the £4,900m mining finance and industrial group, is facing heavier tax requirements on gold profits.

Stressing the importance of "maintaining and encouraging the confidence of investors, especially those based overseas", Mr. Harry Oppenheimer, chairman, states in his annual report, "it is most unfortunate that the government should have chosen at a time of great difficulty for the industry to increase the rate of tax payable through higher surcharges and loan levies. The effect of these changes is that richer mines may now contribute as much as 74 per cent of their profits to the fiscus".

Although AAC has not suffered from severe labour disputes and shortages, the potential losses of mining production on failure to reach agreement with the Mine Workers' Union "could be very serious".

Labour relations in the industry last year, Mr. Oppenheimer claims, enjoyed comparative peace but the fundamental problem could "only be fully resolved by creating a permanent labour force". He insists, however, that the cost of housing all mining employees and their families is "quite beyond the resources" of the industry.

Attributable profits for 1976 climbed 1.8 per cent to £86.28m which, in view of the political disturbances and the decline in real economic spending, he regards as "satisfactory". The post-tax total excludes a £20m provision against the

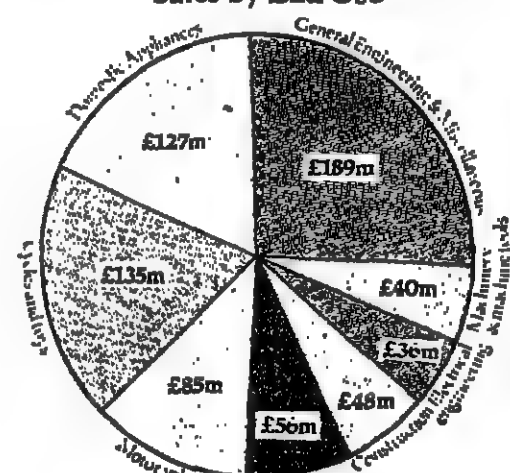


Mr. Harry Oppenheimer, chairman of Anglo American Corporation of South Africa.

investment made in the Société Minière de Tenke Fungurume. The political and economic situation in Zaire coupled with the fall in the copper price, which precluded the completion of satisfactory financing agreements, persuaded the partners to stop work on this venture. But the viability of an operation on a smaller scale is being considered. Though "world conditions remain unfavourable for financing such a major project", AAC and its partners continue to have confidence in the long-term viability of SMIT.

The end uses of the Group's sales are approximately as shown in the chart below.

Sales by End Use



Total £716 million

Capital expenditure and cash

In 1976 TI devoted £21.9 million to capital expenditure schemes—41% more than in 1975—and it is intended to increase the rate of spending still further in the future. This growth in capital expenditure formed part of a planned increase in TI's borrowings.

In the TI Report to Employees Mr. Kellert sounds a note of warning: "We did not generate enough cash last year to meet all our needs, and our borrowings increased by £18 million during the year. This demonstrates that if we are to continue with our spending programmes, which are so vital for our future, we need much higher profits yet. I am sure this is the right course for TI—to develop into a high-profit, well-equipped Group".

Where TI stands

In his statement to shareholders Mr. Kellert writes: "We are clear that the final test for us is in the market place. We must produce goods and services which we are able to sell in sufficient volume and at a sufficient price to enable us to generate enough profit to sustain our businesses for the future. That requires us to be at least as well-equipped as our international competitors, and as efficient and productive in our processes and our working practices".

Referring to employee participation in industry, he states: "TI has long recognised that people want to know and should know what is going on in the areas that concern them and their work. They want to understand the decisions that affect them, and to be able to feel confident that these decisions are sensible and based on rational criteria. Only if these reasonable aspirations are met can the conditions for a successful business be created and sustained. Among these conditions are pride in product and performance, and the identification of job security with company prosperity and of individual reward with contribution to that prosperity".

He rejects the Bullock proposals as potentially damaging and writes: "The constructive approach we are adopting in TI is to continue our efforts to improve communication at operating levels about the progress and prospects of the businesses, and to develop closer understanding and involvement by employees in the business developments and decisions that may affect them".

Copies of the TI Annual Report for 1976, containing the Chairman's Statement, a Business Review and the Directors' Report and Accounts, may be obtained from the Secretary, Tube Investments Limited, TI House, Five Ways, Birmingham B16 8SQ.

The Huntleigh Group Limited

"The Group made further gains, to achieve record sales and earnings, in the year under review. The second half performance exceeded, by a good margin, the first half performance and, over the year, the Group did better than the interim forecast."

Sir Joseph Hunt, M.B.E., Chairman

COMPARATIVE FIGURES	1976	1975
	£000	£000
Turnover	5,811	3,837
Turnover % increase on year: 54%		
Profit before tax	871	543
Profit before tax % increase on year: 47%		
Profit after tax	403	311
Dividends per share	2.1p	1.9p
Earnings per share (fully diluted)	12.4p	9.5p
Net Tangible Assets per share	73.4p	62.8p

The Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held at the Abercorn Rooms, London EC2 at 12 noon on Thursday, 19th May, 1977.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Company Secretary, The Huntleigh Group Limited, Glover Street, Redditch B98 7BQ.

The City Offices Company Limited

Extracts from the Report and Accounts for the Year 1976

- Pre-tax profits have increased for the eleventh successive year and the maximum permissible dividend has been declared.
- Net rental income is higher and more freehold industrial property was acquired during the year.
- A revaluation of investment properties has disclosed a net appreciation of £944,778.

Summary of Results	Year ended 31st December		
	1974	1975	1976
	£000	£000	£000
Gross Income	1,058	1,124	1,232
Profit after Taxation	375	435	535
Dividends, net	308	324	356
Profit retained	69	111	179
Earnings per share, net	1.62p	1.89p	2.32p

London and Manchester Assurance Company Limited

Extracts from the statement by the Chairman, Mr. Lewis Whyte, C.B.E., F.F.A., on the Group Report and Accounts for 1976

Year of reorganisation Growth in premium income Increased bonuses

1976 has been another satisfactory year for your Company. Good progress has been made in increasing the premium income, the yield on the funds is materially higher than last year and a degree of success has been achieved in controlling the rise in the normal expenses of operation. Much of the success can be directly attributed to the efforts of the staff. I therefore will commence my statement by thanking everyone on behalf of the directors for all they have achieved during the past year.

Group Reorganisation
1976 has also been a year of reorganisation within the group. Following the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 2nd August, 1976 your Company acquired from National Westminster Bank Limited its 49 per cent shareholding in Welfare Insurance Company Limited and that company became a wholly-owned subsidiary of London and Manchester.

In my letter to shareholders of 8th July, 1976, I referred to the problems of Welfare Insurance meeting the valuation and admissibility regulations made under the Insurance Companies Act, 1974, which came into force on 1st May, 1975. As outlined in that letter, the directors deemed it necessary to transfer at proper value certain assets from Welfare to London and Manchester where, because of the much greater size of the fund, they would be fully admissible. As part consideration for this the liabilities relating to a substantial block of appropriate life assurance business were also transferred by way of re-assignment.

I am glad to report that Welfare now no longer requires dispensation from any of the regulations. We are convinced that the time when Welfare becomes a profitable subsidiary has been brought forward.

At about the time of the transfer of assets already referred to, Welfare Insurance had made an offer to acquire the balance of the issued share capital of Keith & Henderson Limited not already owned by it. That offer was accepted at a price of 83p per share and the shareholding was one of the assets transferred to London and Manchester. Keith & Henderson is therefore now a wholly-owned subsidiary of your Company.

The Board
In August the directors appointed Mr. D. H. Baker, F.C.A., Director and General Manager of Welfare Insurance, to the Board of your Company.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Rhyll retired at the Annual General Meeting having reached the age of 70. Lord Rhyll has been a director of the Company since 1960 and I take this opportunity of expressing the Board's warm appreciation of his shrewd wisdom and advice during the past 17 years. He has always been one of the staunchest of colleagues.

Subject to shareholders' approval the directors have invited me to remain as Chairman for one further year. Accordingly, special notice has been given of a Resolution for my re-appointment as a director to be submitted at the Annual General Meeting.

In anticipation of my retirement in 12 months' time and in the light of the need for a full-time Chairman, Mr. H. L. K. Browne, the Company's Chief Executive, has been appointed as a Deputy Chairman with a view to his appointment as Chairman to succeed me. Lord Wakehurst will continue to hold office as a Deputy Chairman.

Ordinary Branch
The increased figures for new business assured and new annual premiums reflect the business reassured from Welfare. During the year there was a welcome increase in business from our own full-time Field Staff, but business introduced through our broker connection suffered a sharp decline reflecting conditions in the mortgage market.

As a result of our acquisition of Welfare, a company which has specialised in the pensions field for many years, we are now able to offer a full range of group life and individual pension contracts through the London and Manchester marketing organisation.

Industrial Branch
New annual premiums are some 5.2 per cent higher than those for 1975 and the premium income has continued to grow at about the average rate of the last few years.

The published expense ratio increased from 48.8 per cent to 47.9 per cent but the increase was caused wholly by the non-recurring expenditure of the move to Exeter.

We remain confident that, with the co-operation and goodwill of our staff we can continue to provide a service in the homes of our policyholders at an acceptable cost to them and at the same time offer a satisfying and progressive career to members of our Field Staff.

General Branch
The growth in premium income during 1976 was 17 per cent but, in common with the general experience in the industry, claims experience was poor.

Losses arising from heavy subsidence claims due to the drought of last summer, following considerable storm damage in the early part of the year, had an adverse effect on our profit share and, after charging administration costs, there was a loss of £198,000.

Welfare Insurance
The level of Welfare's new business for 1976 was somewhat down on the previous year though, within the overall figures, pensions new business showed a healthy increase.

Chief Office
The new Chief Office building at Winslade Manor near Exeter should be completed by the end of the current financial year and we anticipate moving into these premises in the Spring of 1978. Meanwhile, the major part of the Chief Office administration has been accommodated in temporary premises in Exeter where we have recruited some 230 staff to join the 30 people who have transferred from London.

The premises at Finsbury Square, which have been the London and Manchester headquarters for many years, have been sold to Canadian Pacific Steamships for a sum of approximately £11m.

The move to Exeter will enable us to house the Chief Office operations of London and Manchester and Welfare in one place and to effect considerable economies in group administration costs. The move of Welfare staff has now commenced and will continue until the middle of 1978 when Welfare's fine head office building overlooking the Channel at Folkestone will be vacated and available for letting or sale.

Investments
(a) *London and Manchester*
The valuation of the investments of the long-term fund at the end of 1976 disclosed a total net appreciation, after estimated contingent liability for tax on capital gains and after the write-up of £850,000 referred to below, of £17.0m. (compared

with an appreciation of £26.6m. for 1975). This figure is based on (a) the Stock Exchange investments (including 75 per cent of the security dollar premium) at middle market price at the end of 1976; (b) properties, including our Chief Office building in Finsbury Square, at current valuation; (c) mortgages and loans at values based on an appropriate market rate of interest over the expected term of the loan, less reserve.

In my review of our investment policy last year I commented that at times of uncertainty there was much to be said for the old investment adage: "Look after the income and the capital will look after itself".

We continued last year to adhere to this philosophy and it was one of the major reasons why the yield on the life funds was increased from 10.37 per cent to over 11 per cent. The increase arose partly from higher dividends on ordinary shares and from certain changes in our ordinary share portfolio, from relatively low-yielding stocks to those giving higher yields. It arose also from other movements in the portfolio of stock exchange securities.

For nearly 25 years we have pursued a policy of adding to investment trust equity or convertible holdings whenever they appeared intrinsically and relatively attractive.

The merits of investing in investment trust company stocks are well known and need not be restated here, but there were two developments last year worthy of particular comment. During the latter part of 1976 investment trusts became cheaper in relation to the general equity market than for several years, when measured by the discounts between market prices and net asset values. This relatively poor market performance prompted several management groups to demonstrate the actual investment experience of the companies in each group over a long period of time, and publication of these figures showed convincingly that the management of such funds by the investment trust companies was in fact very expert and well above the average performance of markets as a whole.

At the same time many investment trust companies, which are free from dividend limitations since they operate as investment media, were paying out a higher proportion of earnings and giving in many cases very satisfactory dividend increases. Some groups were able to show that the dividend increases over the past few years were more than keeping pace with inflation. Any such ability to exceed the pace of inflation in dividend declarations is by itself a favourable factor of profound significance and may well prove to be a more enduring factor in the market assessment of an investment trust's worth than the relationship between price and net asset value.

Although the yield on the life funds improved substantially in 1976 our estimates for the current year indicate a further improvement and we intend to continue the policy of placing prime importance on high income, which we believe is also more likely to increase market values rather than the contrary. Another major factor in our estimate of income growth will be the benefit we will receive from the sale of 50 Finsbury Square, the proceeds from which will be substantially in excess of the cost of the development of the new Chief Office premises at Exeter.

(b) *Welfare*
The decrease in total policyholders' investments from £59.3m. to £41.8m. is accounted for by the transfer of assets to the parent company as explained earlier in my statement.

The major change in the investment portfolio is in the investment trust sector which increased from £8.4m. to £18.8m. largely due to the completion of our reinvestment programme of the various linked funds, particularly of the investment trust fund.

The Complete Bonus System
As usual under the Complete Bonus System, all with profit policyholders share in the annual surplus made by the Company in 1976. The bonuses declared represent a further substantial increase in the reversionary bonuses in each branch and £400,000 has been transferred from Inner Reserve to the ordinary life fund and £450,000 to the industrial life fund to provide for terminal bonuses.

In the Ordinary Branch the reversionary bonus declared stands at £4.50 per cent of the sum assured having increased from £4.25 per cent in the previous year. A 20-year endowment assurance now pays nearly twice the sum assured on maturity.

In the Industrial Branch the reversionary bonuses vary with the type of policy but taking the endowment assurance policy which remains the most popular form of assurance, this year's declaration has reached £3.30 per cent of the sum assured compared with £3.10 per cent for the year 1975.

Profit and Loss Account and Dividend
Transfers from the two life funds have been made on the established basis of 10 per cent of distributable surplus, and a sum of £50,000 has been transferred from the Investment Trust Retirement Annuity Fund. Moves to increase the rate of interest on the investments of the shareholders' funds have resulted in a further rise of £80,000 in investment income, although this has been partly offset by the adverse results of the General Branch to which I have previously referred.

Your directors have declared two interim dividends which, with tax at 35 per cent, would be the maximum distribution allowable under current legislation. In the event of the rate of tax being reduced this summer to 33 per cent a final dividend of -087795p per share would be permitted and the directors recommend a final dividend of this amount, which would be payable only in the event of such tax reduction. The total gross equivalent dividend for the year of 7.855878p per share is well within the earnings per share of 10.17 pence. Had it not been for legislation restricting dividend increases to not more than 10 per cent gross equivalent, your directors would have been in a position to recommend a total dividend more in line with the earnings.

The Future
Our enlarged group embraces all forms of personal insurance contracts. We have made excellent progress in our plans to promote these contracts to the optimum benefit of all concerned, and we believe that we have the people with the technical and managerial skills to achieve our aims. We have made a good start in the first quarter of the current year and I firmly believe that the prospects for growth and profitability are better now than at any other time in recent years.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 18th May, 1977. Copies of the Report, which includes the full text of the Chairman's Statement may be obtained from the Secretary at 50 Finsbury Square, EC2A 1HE.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Tubes sees fruits of strategy but Weir awaits desalination

By Our Financial Staff

From the heartland of engineering come two encouraging bulletins, but both make it clear that this sprawling collection of industries has a long way to go before boomtime returns.

The first is from Tube Investments which raised pre-tax profits from £42.34m to £49.6m last year.

Mr Brian Kellest, chairman, reports that Tubes is now beginning to see the benefit of policies pursued in recent years. The effort put into them has so far come through most

strongly in the steel tube and aluminium divisions.

The chairman's review pinpoints areas that are still slack. The domestic appliance division adapted to the United Kingdom downturn in the first half of last year and prospects are now much better. The division looks forward to generating much higher profits.

But the machine division (machine tools are half sales) found demand weak throughout most of last year but it went further into exports, now 51 per cent of sales.

Industrial electricals held their own despite construction slump. In the steel division

there is doubt in the short run about orders.

From Weir Group, the message from Lord Weir is that better exports should present an "opportunity to make at least a modest advance" this year to December. Contract completions will probably see most of the gain falling into the second six months.

There are lots of orders for desalination plant but "it is still too early to see the significant profits which we expect in future years".

The chairman notices that borrowings have dropped to 89 per cent of equity capital but this is still too high.

RTZ exemption lifts dividend by 47 pc

By Ashley Drucker

Rio Tinto-Zinc's application for exemption from dividend control has been granted by the Treasury. This is on the grounds that the group's trading profits and operating assets are almost exclusively overseas or based on operations overseas. As from shadowed with 1976 results earlier this month, the directors now recommend a total ordinary dividend of 12.31p gross compared with 8.34p.

The final dividend of 4.82p net, instead of the 2.78p previously declared, will be paid without tax deduction and will carry a tax credit which will be available chiefly to United Kingdom resident shareholders and also to shareholders resident in some other countries

under double taxation agreements.

Subject to the recommendation being approved at the annual meeting, holders of accumulating ordinary will receive on July 1 a further allotment, credited as fully paid, on the basis of 0.020977 of a new share for every one held.

Inchcape set the precedent and RTZ is the latest to use the overseas assets and earnings argument successfully to increase the dividend beyond the 10 per cent mark. In 1976 about 50 per cent of assets and 80 per cent of earnings were outside the United Kingdom. Under the exemption just granted the gross dividend is lifted 47.6 per cent and the yield to 5.52 per cent.

Ladbroke again off to a flying start

Ladbroke Group predicts another record year and also promises a substantial increase in dividends when legislation allows.

Mr Cyril Stein, chairman and managing director, tells shareholders that profits in the current year to date are "excellent". In 1976, pre-tax profits reached £15.3m, putting it in the "elite group" of the top 4 per cent of United Kingdom quoted companies in terms of profits. Betting, which contributed 100 per cent of United Kingdom profits in 1970, now produces only one-third.

Ladbroke covers retail betting, casinos, entertainments, hotels, holidays, racetracks, management and property. It operated 956 retail betting units at the end of 1976 and has boosted its share of market turnover to 14 per cent, maintaining its position as brand leader.

With the opening this month of a new casino at the Park Tower Hotel, the casinos division now runs four casinos in London's prime tourist area, providing substantial foreign currency earnings. The refurbished bingo and social clubs are now attracting



Mr Cyril Stein, chairman of Ladbroke.

over 2,000 new members every week and excellent figures are being achieved.

Group assets now total £115m, the outstanding change in the year being investment properties which have increased by £17m to £44m. These properties are still included at cost pending revaluation which is expected to show a substantial surplus.

One-for-four rights by Farnell

Coupled with increased profits and dividends, a rights issue comes from Farnell Electronics.

This electronic component stockholding group is raising £900,000 by a one-for-four issue at 80p. In the year to January 31 last, turnover rose from £10.18m to £14.12m and pre-tax profits from £1.39m to £1.97m. The total gross payment is raised from 5.35p to 5.9p. It forecasts a total dividend of 10p for the current year to which the Treasury has agreed.

Thomson-Brant rights

Thomson-Brant SA the French electrical engineering group, intends to make a one-for-five free rights issue and raise the dividend for 1976 from 14.25 to 15.15 francs.—Reuters.

Hisamitsu's sharp rise

Hisamitsu Pharmaceutical Company in Tokyo in 1976-77, showed a sharp profit rise to ¥29.28m from ¥24.34m (about £25,000) from 49m yen a year earlier. Sales in the year rose to 9,800m yen from 8,000m yen in 1976.—AP-DJ.

Slow start at Ldn Brick

Trading in the first few weeks of the current year has been depressed at London Brick. Deliveries have been affected by poor demand and also waterlogged building sites. The fall in MLR is hopeful for the group, as richer building societies could give a boost to housing starts.

ENGLISH PROPERTY

Details of conversion rights on English Property Corporation's 61 per cent loan stock confirm Eagle Star Insurance's intention not to make its holding beyond the 30 per cent maximum. The insurer converted its holding in EPC to 27.2 per cent.

HAWTIN JUMPS

Turnover rose from £2.6m to £4.7m for year to January 31. Pre-tax profit is £584,000 (£327,000). Earnings a share 1.55p (0.66p).

Eurobond prices (midday indicators)

US \$ STRAIGHTS	Offer	CECA 9 1984	101.1	101.1
Australia 8 1983	102.0	Gen Motors 8 1983	100.8	100.8
Canada 8 1983	102.0	Royal Bank Canada	100.0	100.0
France 8 1983	102.0	Tosca 10 1986	100.0	100.0
Germany 8 1983	102.0			
Italy 8 1983	102.0			
Japan 8 1983	102.0			
Netherlands 8 1983	102.0			
Spain 8 1983	102.0			
Sweden 8 1983	102.0			
Switzerland 8 1983	102.0			
UK 8 1983	102.0			
US 8 1983	102.0			
US 9 1983	102.0			
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US 100 1983	102.0			

International

2 oil groups show first-quarter loss

Mr Charles E. Spahr, chairman of Standard Oil, Ohio, blamed the earnings decline as a contributory factor for the drop in operational results. Net profit in the first quarter fell from \$24.3m (about £14.2m) to \$18.7m. Sales were \$823m against \$717.5m.

Lower first quarter earnings were also reported by the Exxon Corporation. Earnings before financial charges were down 2 per cent to \$713m.

Eurobond issues

Mortgage Investment Company BM-RT plans to raise \$25m through a five-year Eurobond with an expected coupon of 8 1/2 per cent. The lead manager is Union Bank of Switzerland (Securities). The issue is guaranteed by the BM-RT Realty Investment Trust.

Messville Development Finance Corporation of New Zealand (DFC) intends to issue \$20m notes due in 1984, through a syndicate of banks headed by Citicorp.

B

Baird

Wall Street

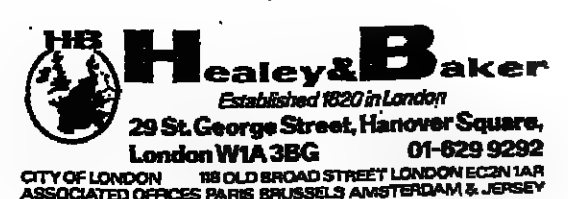
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Canadian Prices



Gold

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Stock Exchange Prices

Subdued start to the account

Account Days: Dealings Began, April 25, Dealings End, May 6. § Contrango Day, May 9. Settlement Day, May 11.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

For Really Discerning Drinkers

HIGH & DRY

Really Dry Gin

[illegible]

DRY Gin

KULEKHANI HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT, NEPAL

TENDER NOTICE

033/34-7

Sealed tenders are invited from the experienced parties for the design, supply, erection, testing and commissioning of the following:—

- (a) Radial gates, roller gates, slide gates and sand flush gates.
- (b) Butterfly valve and hollow jet valve.
- (c) Penstock of 1340 m. in length.

Tender documents can be obtained from this office or Nippon Koei's Head Office on payment of US\$60 per set from 25th April to 8th July, 1977. Tender should reach this office before 13.00 hours of July 10, 1977 and will be opened on the same day at 14.00 hours in presence of tenderers or their authorised representative.

- (a) Kulekhani Hydro-electric Development Board, His Majesty's Government of Nepal, Babar Mahal, Kathmandu, Nepal. Cable Address: KHEP, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- (b) Nippon Koei Co. Ltd., 1-11, Uchisaiwai-cho, 2-chome, Chiyodaku, Tokyo, Japan.

KULEKHANI HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT

TENDER NOTICE

033/34-6

Sealed tenders are invited from the experienced parties for the supply, delivery, erection, testing and commissioning of three sets of 750 KW diesel generating sets required for power supply for the construction of the Project.

Tender documents can be obtained from this office on payment of US\$33 per set from April 8 to June 7, 1977.

Tenders should reach this office before 13.00 hours on June 8, 1977, and will be opened on the same day at 14.00 hours in the presence of tenderers or their authorised representative.

Office: Kulekhani Hydro-electric Development Board, His Majesty's Government of Nepal, Babar Mahal, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Cable Address: KHEP, Kathmandu, Nepal

Secretarial and Non-secretarial Appointments also on page 26

NON-SECRETARIAL

A GULF AIR STEWARDESS HAS THE WORLD AT HER FEET

If you have stamina, an outgoing personality and the power to stay motivated in any situation, you could train as an Air Stewardess with Gulf Air, the international airline owned by the Gulf States, which provides first-class service to passengers from all over the world.

You'll be flying all kinds of routes both internationally and locally with your home base as the island of Bahrain. Training will be thorough but enjoyable and you must be 21-28, single, with a "O" level education and minimum height of 5' 3" with proportionate weight. A tax-free salary and free accommodation in a cosmopolitan community ensure you really do have the world at your feet.

So send a passport-size photo and full career details, including age, weight and height to: Cabin Crew Recruitment (Ref. T1), Gulf Air, Room 253, Raffles Hotel, Bath Road, West Drayton, Middlesex.

RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY

Our client is looking for a young, attractive, single female receptionist/secretary for a small, busy office. The ideal candidate will be a graduate with a minimum of 2 years' experience in a similar position. She should be able to handle the telephone,接待 visitors, and manage the office. Salary is £3,500 per annum. Please send your CV to: 35 Old Bond St., W.1.

nine eleven personnel OUT & ABOUT RECEPTIONIST

Receptionist/Secretary for a busy office. The ideal candidate will be a graduate with a minimum of 2 years' experience in a similar position. She should be able to handle the telephone,接待 visitors, and manage the office. Salary is £3,500 per annum. Please send your CV to: 35 Old Bond St., W.1.

INTERESTING OPPORTUNITY T.V. RADIO

Secretary with good shorthand and typing is required for the broadcasting department of a television company. The ideal candidate will be a graduate with a minimum of 2 years' experience in a similar position. She should be able to handle the telephone,接待 visitors, and manage the office. Salary is £3,500 per annum. Please send your CV to: 35 Old Bond St., W.1.

nine eleven personnel

Temp Controller, Receptionist, Secretary, etc. Please send your CV to: 35 Old Bond St., W.1.

TEMP CONTROLLER

Small, successful employment agency is seeking a temporary controller. The ideal candidate will be a graduate with a minimum of 2 years' experience in a similar position. She should be able to handle the telephone,接待 visitors, and manage the office. Salary is £3,500 per annum. Please send your CV to: 35 Old Bond St., W.1.

BOOKKEEPING/ADMIN. OPPORTUNITIES

The following vacancies offer an opportunity for a graduate with a minimum of 2 years' experience in a similar position. She should be able to handle the telephone,接待 visitors, and manage the office. Salary is £3,500 per annum. Please send your CV to: 35 Old Bond St., W.1.

ALBEMARLE APPOINTMENTS

Receptionist/Secretary for a busy office. The ideal candidate will be a graduate with a minimum of 2 years' experience in a similar position. She should be able to handle the telephone,接待 visitors, and manage the office. Salary is £3,500 per annum. Please send your CV to: 35 Old Bond St., W.1.

SCREEN TEST

Would you make the grade as a receptionist/secretary? We are looking for a graduate with a minimum of 2 years' experience in a similar position. She should be able to handle the telephone,接待 visitors, and manage the office. Salary is £3,500 per annum. Please send your CV to: 35 Old Bond St., W.1.

GROSVENOR BUREAU

Part-time Receptionist/Secretary for a busy office. The ideal candidate will be a graduate with a minimum of 2 years' experience in a similar position. She should be able to handle the telephone,接待 visitors, and manage the office. Salary is £3,500 per annum. Please send your CV to: 35 Old Bond St., W.1.

NON-SECRETARIAL

Friends of South Molton St. Receptionist/Secretary for a busy office. The ideal candidate will be a graduate with a minimum of 2 years' experience in a similar position. She should be able to handle the telephone,接待 visitors, and manage the office. Salary is £3,500 per annum. Please send your CV to: 35 Old Bond St., W.1.

EDUCATIONAL

The Princess Grace Hospital Nurse/Receptionist/Secretary for a busy office. The ideal candidate will be a graduate with a minimum of 2 years' experience in a similar position. She should be able to handle the telephone,接待 visitors, and manage the office. Salary is £3,500 per annum. Please send your CV to: 35 Old Bond St., W.1.

HERE IS THE NEWS!

Receptionist/Secretary for a busy office. The ideal candidate will be a graduate with a minimum of 2 years' experience in a similar position. She should be able to handle the telephone,接待 visitors, and manage the office. Salary is £3,500 per annum. Please send your CV to: 35 Old Bond St., W.1.

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RECEPTIONIST/TYPIST

Receptionist/Secretary for a busy office. The ideal candidate will be a graduate with a minimum of 2 years' experience in a similar position. She should be able to handle the telephone,接待 visitors, and manage the office. Salary is £3,500 per annum. Please send your CV to: 35 Old Bond St., W.1.

ADMINISTRATOR C. £5,500

Receptionist/Secretary for a busy office. The ideal candidate will be a graduate with a minimum of 2 years' experience in a similar position. She should be able to handle the telephone,接待 visitors, and manage the office. Salary is £3,500 per annum. Please send your CV to: 35 Old Bond St., W.1.

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SECRETARIAL PRESTIGE SELECTION

MUSIC—£3,500. PA to Chairman. Arrange music for ten stars in a new, exclusive, intimate club. Call Lorna Watson.

PUBLISHING—£3,000. Secretary to Editor-in-Chief. Run a busy office. Deal with a large staff. Call Lorna Watson.

RECEPTIONIST—£3,500. Secretary to a busy office. Deal with a large staff. Call Lorna Watson.

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SECRETARIAL nine eleven personnel

PA/SECRETARY WITH FRENCH £3,500 +

Champion of worldwide group work. A graduate with a minimum of 2 years' experience in a similar position. She should be able to handle the telephone,接待 visitors, and manage the office. Salary is £3,500 per annum. Please send your CV to: 35 Old Bond St., W.1.

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